U.S. closer to the point where COVID-19 is no longer a constant crisis. NEWS, PAGE 4

#### Consumer spending rises

Americans ramped up spending last month as retail sales soared. NEWS, PAGE 12

#### **UConn defeats Seton Hall**

Sanogo has 20 points and 16 rebounds to lead Huskies to 70-65 win. SPORTS, PAGE 1

#### More mild temps



Cloudy and breezy; showers at night; high of 59. SPORTS, PAGE 6

# Hartford Courant

COURANT.COM **VOLUME CLXXXVI THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022** 

# \$106M boost for Long Island Sound

'Unprecedented' investment to improve environment, bolster fishing and tourism

By Eliza Fawcett Hartford Courant

An "unprecedented" \$106 million investment in the Long Island Sound will improve the estuary's environmental health and increase climate resiliency along its shoreline, federal and state leaders said Wednesday.

"The Long Island Sound is the center of one of the most densely populated coastlines in the country, so it's no surprise that some of the biggest challenges the Sound faces include vulnerable infrastructure along the coast and stormwater pollutions," Janet McCabe, EPA deputy administrator, said in a press call.

The \$106 million allocated for the Long Island Sound is part of a much broader \$50 billion effort by the EPA to improve the nation's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

The funding will be delivered through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to the Long Island Sound Study — a partnership between the agency, Connecticut and New York over the next five years. Through the funding, officials said, communities in Connecticut and New York will be better equipped to reduce stormwater pollution, restore wetlands and prepare for the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise and more severe storms.

Gov. Ned Lamont called Long Island Sound "our treasure, our Mona Lisa" — but said it is a resource that has not been properly cared for in the

"This money's going to be invested and make an extraordinary difference in our lives," he said.

Mark Tedesco, the director of the EPA's Long Island Sound Office, said the agency plans to make decisions about how the \$106 million will be allocated this spring, and that proj-

Turn to Funding, Page 3

"This money's going to be invested and make an extraordinary difference in our lives."

Gov. Ned Lamont about the \$106 million allocated for Long Island Sound

# Pushing forward from harrowing survival story

8 months after escaping condo collapse, Willis begins season as closer



**Dom Amore** 

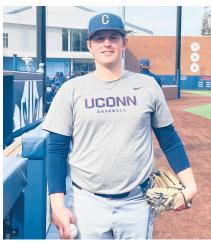
STORRS — For 15 minutes, Justin Willis and his family groped step by step through the darkness during the middle of the night, not knowing if the next step would bring them to safety or death.

They made it down 11 floors, helping others get out. As they looked back from the beach at the partially collapsed Champlain Towers South condominium in Surfside, Florida, on June 24, the condo that belonged to his grandparents was right on the line. Willis estimated he and his sister were 15 feet from where the building broke apart and took the lives of 98 people.

It's not an experience from which one just "moves on."

"There was times when I would be like, 'yeah, I'm doing great,' "Willis said after throwing a scoreless inning in one of UConn's last preseason scrimmages this past weekend. "And other times, you've just got to get yourself going

Turn to Amore, Page 3



Justin Willis, eight months removed from his harrowing escape from the collapsed Champlain Towers in Florida, will take the ball as UConn's closer this season. DOM AMORE/HARTFORD COURANT

#### **Senators introduce Kids Online Safety Act**

Led by Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, and Marsha Blackburn, a Republican from Tennessee, senators from both sides of the aisle came together Wednesday to propose a bill that aims to address the corrosive effects of social media on children's mental health.

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#### **ECONOMY**

# Feeling the pinch as inflation soars

Gasoline to groceries, state consumers' wallets hit

By Stephen Singer and Kenneth R. Gosselin | Hartford Courant

nflation over the 12 months of 2021 was 7.5%, which means an item selling for \$100 in January 2020 could have been had last month for \$107.50. But economics isn't that simple.

The cost of everything has increased at the fastest rate since 1982. Yet prices don't rise uniformly.

Food prices jumped 7% and the price of clothes was up 5.3%, according to the U.S Department of Labor. Price increases were slightly less in the Northeast, with inflation overall at 6.3%. The price of clothes was up 3.2% and consumers paid 6% more for food.

But that's small fries compared with the price of energy, which soared 27%, driven by the rising cost of fuel oil and home heating. That pushes up costs elsewhere, accounting for activities as varied as trucks delivering food to supermarkets to electricity that runs U.S. factories, computers and home appliances.

"Energy is used in everything we do in the economy," said Brian T. Kench, dean of the Pompea College of Business at the University of New Haven. "A lot of the action is around energy prices."

At the South End Wellness Senior Center in Hartford, seniors who have long retired and are now living on fixed incomes say they have felt the pain of higher prices, everywhere from the gas pump to the grocery store.

"I put in half a tank, and it cost me \$35,"

**Turn to Inflation,** Page 2

#### Inflation cost by item

#### **GASOLINE +41%**

Average mid-grade in Connecticut ■ Now: \$3.65/gallon

■ \$2.59/gallon last year. SOURCE: AAA

#### WHOLEMILK +6%

■ \$3.82/gallon January 2022 ■ \$3.60/gallon December 2020

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture

#### **MILLER LITE** LAGER BEER +2.7%

■ \$6.49/six pack now

■ \$6.30/six-pack a year ago. SOURCE: Miller, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### **GROUND BEEF +12.2%**

■ \$4.29/pound now

■ \$3.80/pound last year

 ${\tt SOURCE: Stop\,\&\,Shop, US.\,Bureau\,of\,Labor\,Statistics}$ 

#### CHICKEN **BREAST +12.2%**

■ \$6.79/pound now

■ \$6.05/pound last year.

SOURCE: Stop & Shop, US. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**ABOVE:** At the South End Wellness Senior Center in Hartford, Beulah Williams, at left, and her husband Carl say they are spending between \$20 and \$40 a week more on groceries. KENNETH R. GOSSELIN/HARTFORD COURANT

# West, Russia at odds over pullback



Two women wave Ukrainian flags Wednesday to mark a "Day of National Unity" in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. ANDRIY ANDRIYENKO /AP

US warns about troop buildup near Ukraine's borders

By Vladimir Isachenkov, Yuras Karmanau and Lorne Cook

KYIV, Ukraine - Ukrainians defied pressure from Moscow with a national show of flag-waving unity Wednesday, while the U.S. warned that Russia had added as many as 7,000 troops near Ukraine's borders despite Kremlin declarations that forces were being pulled back from the region.

While a Russian invasion of Ukraine on Wednesday did not materialize, the United States and its allies maintain that the threat remains strong, with Europe's security and economic stability in the balance.

Russia has massed about 150,000 troops east, north and south of Ukraine, according to Western estimates. Russian Presi-

**Turn to Ukraine,** Page 3

#### FROM PAGE ONE



A customer in an East Windsor grocery store pays for groceries with inflation rates approaching 7.5%. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

#### Inflation

from Page 1

said Estelle Freeland, who lives in Newington. "It usually cost me \$15 and no more than \$20. I was just out of it when I saw the sign that said the cheapest was \$3.42. I see it at the pumps. I see it at the stores."

Hartford resident Willie Mann said he's driving less to conserve gas. He's also started doing something he hasn't done before: stopping by a local social services agency that provides food, to supplement the produce, cereal and bread that he buys.

"I always went straight to the regional market at times or to Price Rite and ShopRite and that would be it," Mann said.

Hartford's Beulah Williams said she and her husband Carl are spending \$20-\$40 a week more on food since prices started climbing. The couple is eating less meat so when there is a big sale, they stock up and load up their freezer.

"It's significant when you are on a fixed budget," Williams said. "And the toilet paper. That's gone sky high. I'm afraid people are going to start hoarding again."

The price for a new car was 12.2% higher and used cars and trucks cost consumers a significant 40.5% more in January than January 2021. Fewer new cars have been on the market because of computer chip shortages and supply chain bottlenecks caused by factory closings during the pandemic. As a result, demand soared for used cars

The causes of inflation have been known for a while. The pandemic is partly responsible, causing shortages in items as varied as cat food to semiconductors that are used in nearly all products that require power.

Demand by consumers working from home soared as supplies were crimped, creating classic conditions for inflation.

Adding to that, Congress and President Donald Trump and later, President Joe Biden, approved trillions of dollars in federal spending to keep the economy from sinking under the weight of high unemployment and lost business and tax revenue.

Another textbook cause of inflation emerged: "More money chasing a fixed number of goods,"

Kench said.

Economist Donald Klepper-Smith said inflation would be even worse, but the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has changed how it calculates the Consumer Price Index, which is the basis for measuring the pace of inflation.

Components do not include housing, which has posted red hot sales, but a rental equivalent instead, he said. And taxes are not included, he said.

The result is that the federal government understates inflation, Klepper-Smith said. The reason, he said, is that the government saves trillions of dollars in transfer payments such as Social Security checks that are higher with cost-of-living adjustments pegged to the Consumer Price Index.

'The CPI does not measure the cost of living," Klepper-Smith said. "It measures the cost of surviving. It understates inflation as consumers are experiencing it."

Kench sees a path to a return to a more normal economy with inflation tamed. Pumping more oil will help push down energy prices, though it will likely generate opposition from clean energy advocates.

The supply chain will slowly be repaired and current high demand will wane, he said.

For the moment, however, Kench said, "Inflation is real. It's sustained. It could be self-reinforcing."

Biden is now trying to remedy the inflation situation with 72 distinct initiatives – from new rules for cell phone repairs to regulations on meatpacking to more merger reviews. But some business groups dispute the fundamental premise that competition has faded within the U.S. economy and they are prepared to challenge the administration's new initiatives in court.

At the senior center in Hartford, Mann, a retired case manager for the Hartford Board of Education, said he remembers the long gas lines in the 1970s, another era of runaway inflation.

"We had gas shortages, we had long lines," Mann said. "We don't see that now. But what we do see are gas prices going up.' Mann had hoped that Presi-

dent Biden's decision to release a portion of the strategic petroleum reserves would help, but it didn't. Living with price increases,

#### OTHER COST **INCREASES**

Inflation has Connecticut residents paying up to 40% more on some common items. Here's how prices have changed in the last year.

By percent in the past year:

- Medical care commodities, 1.4% increase
- Physicians' services, 2.6% increase
- Alcoholic beverages, 2.7% increase
- Rent, 3.8% increase
- Motor vehicle insurance, 4.1% increase
- Airline fares, 4.9% increase
- Apparel, 5.3% increase
- Fruits and vegetables, 5.6% increase
- Food, 7% increase
- Tobacco and smoking products, 7% increase
- Electricity, 10.7% increase
- New vehicles.12.2% increase
- Meats, poultry, fish and eggs 12.2% increase
- Gasoline (all types) 40%
- Used vehicles, 40.5% increase Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Stephen Singer and Kenneth R.

Gosselin, Hartford Courant

Freeland said she is glad she has her family to fall back on when she needs it.

It is upsetting, however, to hear people paying thousands of dollars for a ticket to the Super Bowl when so many struggle to buy the necessities, Freeland said.

"I just feel like we're in a chaotic situation," Freeland said. "It just doesn't seem to be ending. It just seems to be going higher and higher."

Associated Press contributed to this report.

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#### LOTTERY

Wednesday, Feb. 16

PLAY3 DAY **PLAY4 DAY** 8 4 2 ws: 7 2 4 7 3 ws: 7

**TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS PLAY3 NIGHT** 7 1 7 **WB**: 9 **PLAY4 NIGHT** 9 9 0 0 **WB**: 7 cash 5 3 6 19 24 27 LUCKY FOR LIFE 25 27 28 31 38 LB: 9 **LOTTO** 13 28 32 34 39 41

> Zero first-prize winning ticket(s) sold.

> **MEGA MILLIONS** 2 4 15 21 63 MB: 19 MP: 3

Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1 million Friday's est. Mega Millions iackpot: \$64 million

# RESEARCH

E-mail

## **Research Opportunity** for Excessive Clutter

Is it difficult for you to throw things away, even if you don't need them?

Is your home so cluttered that you have trouble using rooms or furniture?

The Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital is conducting a study investigating brain and stress responses in people with Hoarding Disorder.

Participants are compensated \$50 for their time. Studies are open to adults aged 18 to 65 years old that meet study criteria.

Studies take place on site at the Institute of Living in Hartford, CT during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 9-5).



#### Institute of Living

For more information, please call 860-545-7391 or e-mail ADC.research@hhchealth.org

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#### 2/18 Comedy Hypnotist Jim Spinnato

Watch as audience volunteers release their comedic abilities all while under the influence of hypnosis. "Sleeping" was never this funny!!

2/19 Frames in Film: I, Claude Monet

Revealing the heart and soul of arguably the world's most loved artist. A film co-presented with the Florence Griswold Museum.

#### 2/19 Eight to the Bar & The Cartells

Put away your snow boots and grab your dancing shoes for a swinging night of dancing! The dance floor will be open!

#### 2/20 Best of the Eagles

Excellent musicians who expertly and authen-tically re-create the songs, music, vocals and magical aura of one of the greatest rock bands.

#### 2/24 Ward Hayden & the Outliers

Hailing from Boston, MA, this group was formerly known as Girls, Guns and Glory . A mix of country, Rock & Roll, and Blues.

#### 2/25 John McEuen and the Circle Band

Sharing music and memories of Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and landmark Will the Circle Be Unbroken album plus an incredible 50-year career.

#### 2/26 The Longest Johns

A Bristol based, a capella folk music band, born out of a mutual love of traditional folk songs and shanties.

## 2/27 The Slambovian Circus of Dreams Their melodic avant-folk conjures a quirkier Tom Petty or fuller Buffalo Tom with an exotic instrumental arsenal. If you like Dylan, Bowie, The Decemberists, you'll find a lot to love about

#### this band. 3/1 Talisk

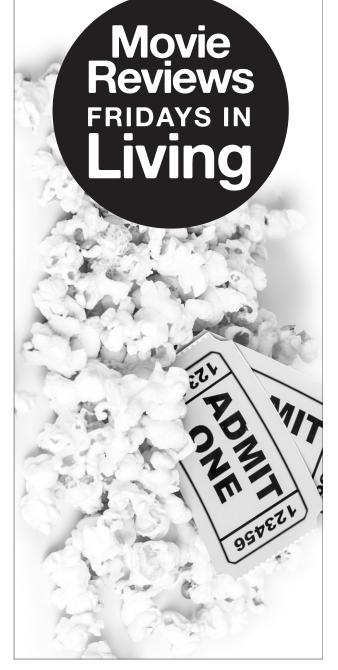
Talisk ranks highly amongst the most in-de-mand folk-based groups to emerge from Scotland in the last decade and more.



RISK







#### FROM PAGE ONE

#### **Funding**

from Page 1

ects will likely begin this summer.

"In many cases, projects that will affect or improve water and wastewater infrastructure will also have the benefit of climate resiliency, when we're talking about flooding and stormwater controls," he said.

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., emphasized the urgent need to protect residential communities, industry and infrastructure along the shoreline from the devastating impact of climate change.

With sea level rise happening at a rate never before seen in the last two millennia, we have an overabundance of projects to protect our shoreline," he said. "We have low-income communities in Connecticut that can't afford on their own to make the investment in resiliency and clean water, without help from the federal government."

Safeguarding the Sound's clean water has already improved habitats for whales, dolphins and seabirds, said Holly Drinkuth, Connecticut co-chair of the Long Island Sound Study Citizen's Advisory Committee, who is also the



As a nor'easter churns the wind and water of Long Island Sound in October 2021, fisherman Adam Lurch braves the storm from rocks off Eastern Point in Groton. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

director of outreach and watershed programs for The Nature Conservancy. The expanded federal funds will deepen those efforts, while

also bolstering fishing, swimming, boating and tourism industries in the Sound, she added.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal,

D-Conn., noted that the funding represents the single largest investment in the Long Island Sound.

"It's only a down payment — the

beginning, not the end," he said.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

#### Amore

from Page 1

again. That's what it's all about: Once you start to find rhythm in everyday life and stuff starts to get to the back of your head."

With the support of UConn's baseball coaches, Willis canceled his summer ball plans and spent the time at his home in New Jersey with family as they processed and healed from the traumatic experience.

"You can let it define you, or you can embrace it," Willis said. "I've been away from home for six years now, in college, summer ball, high school travel teams. and I think this is the closest my family has been."

Willis returned to UConn in September with his 2021 performance fresh in his coach's minds, and when the Huskies begin the new season at South Florida on Friday night, Willis will be their

"I think he was a little bit more pensive," said UConn coach Jim Penders, who checked on Willis frequently throughout the summer and fall. "He wasn't super eager to talk about it, but I noticed he had a calmness about him. He probably was happy to be back around his teammates, back to some normalcy, back to a

routine." At 5 feet 8, and 202 pounds, the righthander does not have a classic pitcher's build but has shown a "Jersey toughness" Penders likes, and an air of confidence that makes his stuff, a low 90s fastball and quick, late-breaking slider or "slurve," that much more effec-

Willis, who transferred from Vanderbilt, went 4-0 with a 2.60 ERA in 16 games for the Huskies in 2021, getting crucial middleand late-inning outs along the way to Big East regular-season



Justin Willis, who narrowly escaped with his family when the Champlain Towers building in Miami collapsed last June, is taking over as UConn's closer. The new season starts Friday. STEPHEN SLADE/COURTESY

and tournament titles.

"He's ferocious out there," Penders said. "He has no fear. It's his mentality. He wants to finish games and nobody is going to touch his stuff. No matter what it is that day, he's going to get you out. ... And if he doesn't happen to have it that day and they get to him, he gives up a two-run jack to lose a ballgame, he's not going to lose any sleep over it because he knows we're all just guaranteed this moment. Who knows that better than he does?"

UConn has had a long string of closers who have gone on to the

pros, including Caleb Wurster, drafted by the Florida Marlins after last season. Willis closed for a fall season at Vanderbilt and for most of two seasons in the New England Collegiate Baseball League.

"The last out is only different if you let yourself believe it is," he

UConn was 34-19 last season, including 16-1 in its new Elliot Ballpark, before being knocked out of the NCAA regional at Notre Dame. The program lost a lot of players to graduation, the MLB draft and injuries but has

reloaded with a strong influx of transfers. There could be as many as six transfers on the field in the season opener. Collegiate Baseball ranked the Huskies 39th in its preseason poll, and named Friday night's starter Austin Peterson a second-team

All-American "I like that we have a lot of veteran presence in our starting lineup," Penders said. "But it's the first time a lot of those veterans are playing in our uniform, so we know less about those veterans than guys we've had in the past. What I've seen so far, they've

blended very well with our culture. We've done a good job of identifying transfers who are not going to detract but add value."

UConn plays USF, Charlotte and Louisville during its first weekend in Tampa, then returns to Florida to play North Florida and FIU in Jacksonville the following weekend. After opening its home schedule against the University of Hartford on March 8, the Huskies go to California to play Pepperdine, USC, Long Beach State and San Diego, a schedule built for an at-large NCAA run. The Huskies were picked No. 1 in the Big East preseason poll.

"The coaches do a good job of finding guys who fit this program, who just want to play baseball, maybe were unhappy and want to get another chance at it," Willis said.

"It's Northeast baseball. It's gritty, it's wanting to be out here and thinking 45-50 degree weather is beautiful."

Willis' parents, Albert and Janette Aguero, will be traveling to see most of UConn's early road games and also watching Justin's sister, Athena Aguero, compete in high school swimming. The closeness remains, as does the lesson of how precious every moment of life can be.

"You've got to be the trusted one at the end of the game," Willis said. "You get those jitters, you try to shock the system. You can be an adrenaline junkie, which you kind of have to be to be a closer. You've just got to center yourself back again and find that stuff. 'OK, this is awesome, bases loaded, nobody out, I need to get out of this.' Something like the building, you just make your way out of here and let's go to the next thing."

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#### Ukraine

from Page 1

dent Vladimir Putin has signaled he wants a peaceful path out of the crisis, and President Joe Biden promised that the U.S. would continue to give diplomacy "every chance," but he struck a skeptical tone about Moscow's intentions. Biden also insisted that Washington and its allies would not "sacrifice basic principles" respecting Ukraine sovereignty.

Russian Defense Ministry video showed a trainload of armored vehicles moving across a bridge away from Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014. It also announced that more tank units of the Western Military District were being loaded on trains to move back to their permanent bases after training exercises.

But at the same time, Russia is continuing war games near Ukraine's borders and across its vast territory.

A senior U.S. administration official said the West detected that Russia had increased its force near Ukraine by 7,000 troops, with some arriving as recently as Wednesday, and that there had been a marked increase in false claims by Russians that the Kremlin might use as pretext for an invasion.

The official said those claims included reports of unmarked graves of civilians allegedly killed by Ukrainian forces, statements that the U.S. and Ukraine are developing biological or chemical weapons, and claims that the West is funneling in guerrillas to kill Ukrainians.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly about sensitive operations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official also did not provide underlying evidence for the asser-

The U.S. and Europe are maintaining threats of harsh sanctions. Trust between East and West remains elusive.

"We haven't seen a pullback," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told ABC News. "He (Putin) can pull the trigger. He can pull it today. He can pull it tomorrow. He can pull it next week. The forces are there if he wants to renew aggression against Ukraine.'

State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. had seen "more Russian forces, not fewer."

Asked why Russians would claim to be withdrawing when government intelligence, commercial satellite photos and social media videos showed no evidence of that, Price said: "This is the Russian playbook, to paint a picture publicly while they do the

opposite." NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance also had not seen "any withdrawal of Russian forces," as did multiple European governments. Before chairing a NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels, he said: "If they really start to withdraw forces, that's something we will welcome, but that remains to be

In the meantime, the alliance is examining this week how and when to rapidly dispatch troops and equipment to countries closest to Russia and the Black Sea region should Moscow order an invasion.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy similarly dismissed the Russian withdrawal claims.

"What is this? Rotations, withdrawal, returning back again," he said on a visit to the southeastern city of Mariupol. "It's too early to rejoice."

The Ukrainian leader has repeatedly sought to project calm as well as strength during the crisis, declaring Wednesday a "Day of National Unity."

"We are united by a desire to happily live in peace," Zelenskyy said in an address to the nation earlier in the day. "We can defend our home only if we stay united."

Across the country, Ukrainians of all ages waved flags in the streets and from apartment windows.

Hundreds unfolded a 650-foot flag at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium, while another was draped in the center of a shopping mall in the

In the government-controlled part of Ukraine's eastern region of Luhansk, where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian troops since 2014, residents stretched another huge flag across a street.

Russia has repeatedly complained that the U.S. and NATO have not responded satisfactorily in writing to its security concerns. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Wednesday that Russia is in the final phase of preparing a formal response to the West.

For now, Russia is flexing its muscle. Russian fighter jets flew training missions Wednesday over neighboring Belarus and paratroopers held shooting drills at firing ranges there as part of massive war games that the West feared could be used as cover for an invasion of Ukraine.



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# **WORLD NATION**

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# CDC weighs easing mask guidance

Push to lift mandates gains momentum as infections fall in US

**By Sara Burnett** Associated Press

The nation's leading health officials said Wednesday that the U.S. is moving closer to the point that COVID-19 is no longer a "constant crisis" as more cities, businesses and sports venues began lifting pandemic restrictions around the country.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a White House briefing that the government is contemplating a change to its mask guidance in the coming weeks. Noting recent declines in COVID-19 cases, hospital admissions and deaths, she acknowledged "people are so eager" for health officials to ease masking rules and other measures designed to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"We all share the same goal — to get to a point where COVID-19 is no longer disrupting our daily lives, a time when it won't be a constant crisis — rather something we can prevent, protect against, and treat," Walensky said.

With the omicron variant waning and Americans eager to move beyond the virus, government and business leaders have been out ahead of the CDC in ending virus measures in the last week, including ordering workers back to offices, eliminating mask mandates and no longer requiring proof of vaccine to get into restaurants, bars and sports and entertainment arenas.



Philadelphia lifted its vaccine restrictions on indoor dining. Above, diners at the Reading Terminal Market. MATT ROURKE/AP

The efforts have been gaining more steam each

Philadelphia officials Wednesday said the city's vaccine mandate for restaurants was immediately lifted, though indoor mask mandates remain in place for now. At Disney World, vaccinated guests will no longer have to wear masks at the Florida theme park starting Thursday. Professional sports teams have stopped requiring proof of vaccine for fans.

Health Commissioner Cheryl Bettigole said Philadelphia's average daily case count had dropped to 189 cases per day in the city of more than 1.5 million people. Bettigole said the plunge in infections has been steeper in Philadelphia than elsewhere in the state or the country, making it easier to lift the vaccine mandate for restaurants and other businesses announced in mid-December and that just fully went into effect this month.

"Our goal has always been to the least restrictive as possible while ensuring safety," she said.

In Provincetown, Massachusetts, a seaside town that became a COVID-19 hot spot with an early outbreak of the delta variant last summer. officials Tuesday lifted a mask mandate and vaccine requirement for indoor

spaces like restaurants and

Town Manager Alex Morse said the community of 3,000 recorded zero active cases last week among Provincetown residents - something that hasn't happened since the surge following last year's July 4 celebrations.

"We are learning to live with, and mitigate, the impact of the virus on our community," Morse said.

COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations have fallen sharply in the U.S., with the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases dropping from about 453,000 two weeks ago to about 136,000 as of Tuesday, according to data from Johns Hopkins

University. Hospitalizations are at levels similar to September, when the U.S. was emerging from the delta variant surge. Almost 65% of Americans are fully vaccinated.

"As a result of all this progress and the tools we now have, we are moving to a time where COVID isn't a crisis but is something we can protect against and treat," said Jeff Zients, the White House coronavirus response coordinator.

Walensky said the CDC 'will soon put guidance in place that is relevant and encourages prevention measures when they are most needed to protect public health and our

She suggested any changes will take into account measures of community transmission, as well as hospitalization rates or other gauges of whether infected people are becoming severely ill. They also would consider available bed space in hospitals.

Several states with indoor mask mandates announced last week they would be lifted in coming weeks, also citing promising numbers.

Two music festivals that draw thousands of people to the California desert town of Indio in April and May, Coachella and Stagecoach, also said this week there will be no vaccination, masking or testing mandates in accordance with local guide-

Coachella also noted that could change along with COVID-19 conditions.

In Philadelphia, Bettigole said the vaccine mandate helped spur "a very large" increase in pediatric vaccinations, pushing the city way ahead of the national average for first doses among kids ages 5 to 11. More than 53% of Philadelphia residents in that age group have received a first dose, compared to closer to 30% nationally, she said.

Walensky said the CDC wants to "give people a break from things like mask-wearing" when circumstances improve, though be able to mask up again if things worsen. She also said there will be instances where people should continue to wear masks even if prevention measures ease.

Examples include when individuals have symptoms of COVID-19 or are within 10 days after being diagnosed with it.

# Tensions rise in Ottawa as police warn truckers

Blockade continues despite Emergencies Act from Trudeau

**By Rob Gillies** and Wilson Ring **Associated Press** 

OTTAWA, Ontario - A showdown appeared to be shaping up in Ottawa's nearly three-week siege by truckers protesting the country's COVID-19 restrictions as police in the capital warned drivers on Wednesday to leave immediately or risk arrest.

The big rigs parked outside Parliament represented the movement's last stronghold after demonstrators abandoned their sole remaining truck blockade along the U.S. border.

With that, all border crossings were open for the first time in more than two weeks of unrest, centering attention on the capital, where drivers defiantly ripped up warnings telling them to go home.

Authorities went from rig to rig, knocking on the doors and handing truckers leaflets informing them they could be prosecuted, lose their licenses and see their vehicles seized under Canada's Emergencies Act. Police also began ticketing

There was no immediate word from police on when or if they might move in to clear the hundreds of trucks by force. But protest leaders braced for action.

"If it means that I need to go to prison, if I need to be fined in order to allow freedom to be restored in this country - millions of people have given far more for their freedom," said David Paisley, who traveled to Ottawa with a friend who is a truck

The warnings came two days after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked the emergency law to try to break the protests.

"It's not for politicians to tell police when and how to do things. What we have done with the emergency act is to make sure the police have the necessary tools," Trudeau said Wednesday.

The crisis has become one of the most serious tests yet for Trudeau, who has long channeled the star power - if not quite the political heft — of his father, Pierre Trudeau, who was prime minister a generation ago.

Some lawmakers are faulting the younger Trudeau for not moving more decisively against the protests, while others are accusing him of going too far in assuming emergency

Since late January, protesters in trucks and other vehicles have jammed the streets of the capital and obstructed border crossings. The demonstrations by the self-styled Freedom Convov initially focused on Canada's vaccine requirement for truckers entering the country but soon morphed into a broad attack on COVID-19 precautions and Trudeau himself.

On Wednesday, protesters who had stopped traffic and trade for a week along the U.S. border at Emerson, Manitoba, opposite North Dakota, pulled away in tractors and trucks without any

The protests have drawn support from right-wing extremists and have been cheered on and received donations from conservatives in the U.S., triggering complaints in some quarters that America and its pandemic politics have been a bad influence on Canada.

Daniel Bulford, a protest leader who described himself as a former officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a recent member of Trudeau's security detail, accused the Trudeau government of resorting to "extreme and



A protester holding a Canadian flag stands in front of a truck as the blockade of streets in downtown Ottawa, Ontario, continues on Wednesday. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY

authoritarian" measures to quell the demonstrations.

Protest organizers encouraged supporters to come to the capital to make it difficult for police to clear them out. But the nation's top safety official warned them to stay away or face

legal consequences. Meanwhile, the premiers of two Canadian provinces and 16 U.S. governors sent a letter to Trudeau and President Joe Biden calling on them to end their nations' vaccine mandates for truckers crossing the border.

Over the past weeks,

authorities hesitated to move against many of the protesters around the country, citing in some cases a lack of manpower and fears of violence.

But the bumper-tobumper occupation has infuriated many Ottawa residents, who have complained of being harassed and intimidated on the clogged streets. The rising frustration cost Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly his job this week.

An Ottawa child welfare agency advised parents at the demonstration to arrange for someone to take care of their children in the event of a police crackdown. Some protesters had their youngsters with them.

Police in the capital appeared to be following the playbook that authorities used over the weekend to break the blockade at the economically vital Ambassador Bridge connecting Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit.

Police there handed out leaflets informing protesters they risked arrest. After many of those demonstrators left, police moved in and arrested dozens who remained.

Former President Donald Trump has fought to keep White House visitor logs private. EVAN VUCCI/AP 2020

# Biden orders release of Trump White House logs to panel

By Colleen Long Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden is ordering the release of Trump White House visitor logs to the House committee investigating the riot of Jan. 6, 2021, once more rejecting former President Donald Trump's claims of executive privi-

The committee has sought a trove of data from the National Archives, including presidential

records Trump had fought to keep private. The records being released are visitor logs showing appointment information for individuals who were allowed to enter the White House on the day of the insurrection.

In a letter sent Monday to the National Archives, White House counsel Dana Remus said Biden had considered Trump's claim that because he was president at the time of the attack on the U.S. Capitol, the records should remain private, but decided it was not in the best interest of

the United States" to do so. She also noted that the Biden administration "voluntarily discloses such visitor logs on a monthly basis," as did the Obama administration, and that the majority of the entries over which Trump asserted the claim would be publicly released under the current policy.

A Trump spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the decision.

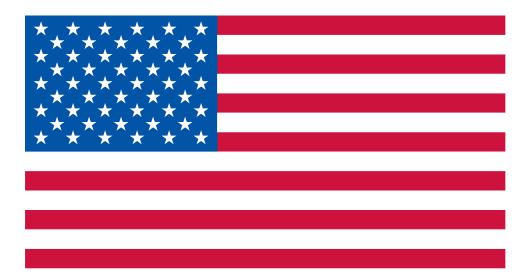
The Presidential Records Act mandates that records made by a sitting president and his staff be preserved in the National Archives, and an outgoing president is responsible for turning over documents to the agency when leaving office. Trump tried but failed to withhold White House documents from the House committee in a dispute that was decided by the Supreme Court.

Biden has already made clear that he is not invok-

ing executive privilege concerning the congressional investigation unless he absolutely must. Biden has waived that privilege for much other information requested by the committee, which is going through the material and obtaining documents and testimony from witnesses, including some uncooperative ones.

The committee is focused on Trump's actions from Jan. 6, when he waited hours to tell his supporters to stop the violence.

# Mr. President, We're United Together



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## The American Cancer Society and the American **Cancer Society Cancer Action Network stand** ready to work with you and Congress to end cancer as we know it.

Individuals with cancer and their families can't wait. It's time to turn our collective goal into action. The American Cancer Society is dedicated to improving the lives of cancer patients and their families. Our commitment to work alongside President Biden is backed up by more than a century of impact. The American Cancer Society has provided more than \$3.1 billion in cancer research funding since 1991 and works in over 5,000 communities in the nation each year, and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network advocates for critical cancer public policies at all levels of government. Significant investment in research, advocacy, and direct patient support has driven declines in cancer death rates to date.

The federal government also plays a critical role in our ability as a nation to accelerate the fight and save more lives from cancer. So, let's meet the moment together by getting cancer early detection back on track for the more than 9 million people who have missed their critical screenings due to COVID, and ensuring robust federal funding for cancer research to promote discovery.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network calls on Representative DeLauro to work with colleagues in Congress to finish the FY22 Appropriations process, including increased funding for CDC, NIH, NCI, and investment to launch the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

On behalf of all cancer patients and their families, let's get to work together to end cancer as we know it.





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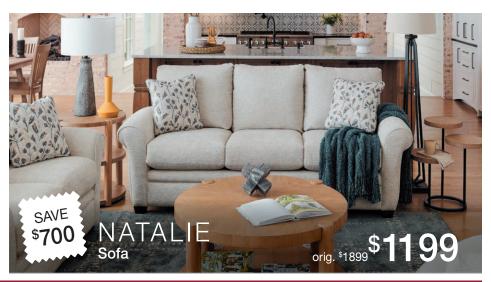
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#### **WORLD & NATION**

**NEWS BRIEFING** 

## EU able to withhold funds from Hungary, Poland, top court rules

From news services

BRUSSELS — The European Union's highest court said Wednesday that the 27-nation bloc can suspend support payments to member states if they breach rule of law principles.

The right-wing governments of Hungary and Poland, which had challenged the EU's right to take such action, responded by arguing that the rule lacked a proper legal basis and would fundamentally interfere with their running of national

Both nations have come under increasing criticism over the past few years for veering away from democratic norms with policies such as exerting excessive control over the judiciary, stifling media freedom and denying the rights of LGBT

When it comes to democratic principles, "the European Union must be able to defend those values, within the limits of its powers," the **European Court of Justice** said in Wednesday's ruling.

The decision was the last legal impediment to EU institutions withholding funds from any government they consider to be at odds with core democratic principles. The rule, seen as the EU's most potent weapon to prevent a democratic rift from deepening within the bloc, was approved 14 months ago, but the executive European Commission waited to apply it.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen promised to "act with determination," and EU legislators immediately urged her to start enforcing the rule within days. Withholding any funds could take until the end of the year because of institutional rules and a tortuous approval process that needs majority approval

of member states.

Polish Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro — who is responsible for many of the changes seen as eroding the independence of judges called the court's move a turning point.

"It is a gloomy date that will be written in the history books," Ziobro said. "From an area of freedom, the EU is changing into an area where it will be possible to use unlawful violence in order to take this freedom away from member states and limit their sovereignty."

Hungarian Justice Minister Judit Varga called the court ruling a "political judgment" and proof that the EU was abusing its power.

**Zinke investigation:** Former U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke misused his position to advance a commercial development project that included a microbrewery in his Montana hometown and lied to an agency ethics official about his involvement, according to a report by federal investigators released Wednesday.

The investigation by the agency's inspector general found that Zinke continued work on the project through a nonprofit foundation in the resort community of Whitefish, Montana, after he committed upon taking office to break ties with the foundation.

The report also said Zinke gave incorrect and incomplete information to an ethics official who confronted him over his involvement, and that Zinke ordered staff to help him with the project.

Zinke is a candidate in the June Republican primary for an open Montana congressional seat, a position he held prior to joining former President Donald Trump's Cabi-

His campaign blasted the investigative report as "a



Gas tanker explosion: Emergency personnel work to bring a fire under control after a gasoline tanker overturned and crashed early Wednesday morning in Rockville Centre, New York. Fire officials said the tanker was carrying 9,200 gallons of gas when it crashed into a vacant furniture showroom. The driver and three firefighters who responded were injured. ALEX DIGREGORIO/AP

political hit job"

San Francisco school board: San Francisco residents recalled three members of the city's school board Tuesday for what critics called misplaced priorities and putting progressive politics over the needs of children during the pandemic.

Mayor London Breed will now appoint board replacements who will serve until another election in Novem-

The school board has seven members, all Democrats, but only three were eligible to be recalled: school board President Gabriela López, Vice President Faauuga Moliga and Commissioner Alison Collins.

Opponents called the recall a waste of time and money as the district challenges include a \$125 million budget deficit and the need to replace retiring Superintendent Vincent Matthews. Parents in the politically

liberal city launched the recall effort in January 2021 out of frustration over the

slow reopening of district schools, while the board pursued the renaming of 44 school sites and the elimination of competitive admissions at the elite Lowell High School.

Deadly shark attack: A swimmer on a Sydney beach in Australia died after being attacked Wednesday by what witnesses described as a 15-foot great white shark.

It was the first fatal shark attack in Sydney since 1963. A witness said the swim-

mer was in the water when the shark "came and attacked him vertically.' Police closed Little Bay

Beach as they continued to search the area for the shark.

According to researchers with the International Shark Attack File, Australia led the world with three unprovoked shark-related deaths in 2021.

There were a total of 11 worldwide.

Africa vaccine factories: German vaccine maker BioNTech, which developed

the first widely approved shot against COVID-19 together with Pfizer, unveiled plans Wednesday to establish manufacturing facilities in Africa that would boost the availability of much-needed medicines on the continent.

The modular design consists of shipping containers fitted with the equipment necessary to make the company's mRNA-based vaccine.

BioNTech has been criticized by some campaign groups for refusing to suspend its vaccine patents and let rivals manufacture the shots as part of an effort to make them more widely available, especially in poor countries.

The first facility will be shipped to either Senegal or Rwanda in the second half of this year, BioNTech said.

Botched baptisms: Thousands of baptisms performed by a priest who served in Arizona for 16 years are now presumed to be invalid because he used incorrect wording on a subtle but key component of the sacrament, Roman Catholic officials said.

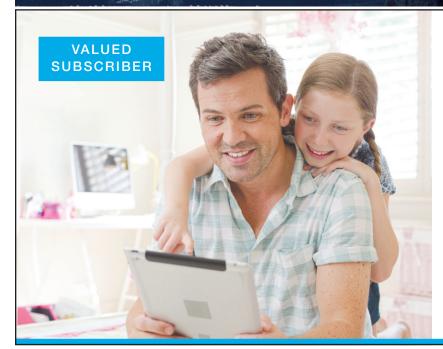
People affected were baptized by the Rev. Andres Arango, who served in three parishes from September 2005 until his resignation

Arango's error was in saying, "We baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," when he should have begun the sentence by saying, "I baptize you."

"The issue with using 'We' is that it is not the community that baptizes a person, rather, it is Christ, and Christ alone, who presides at all of the sacraments, and so it is Christ Jesus who baptizes," Bishop Thomas Olmsted wrote in a mid-January message on the website for the Diocese of Phoenix.

The Vatican in June 2020 issued the guidance declaring that the formula "We baptize you..." was invalid and that anyone who was baptized using it must be rebaptized using the proper

#### **MEN'S BASKETBALL UCONN VS XAVIER** SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 **GAMPEL PAVILION** 12:00 PM **UCONN VS VILLANOVA** TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 **XL CENTER** 8:00 PM **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UCONN VS GEORGETOWN** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 **XL CENTER** UCONN 2:00 PM **UCONN VS MARQUETTE** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 **XL CENTER JCONN** 7:00 PM **UCONN VS ST. JOHN'S** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 **XL CENTER** 7:00 PM **UCONN VS PROVIDENCE** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 **GAMPEL PAVILION** 2:00 PM **MEN'S ICE HOCKEY** UCONN **UCONN VS NORTHEASTERN** SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 **XL CENTER** 3:05 PM



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# Pedestrian deaths jump in pandemic

Nationwide flare-up of reckless driving behind grim trend

**By Simon Romero** The New York Times

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — After a festive evening spent viewing a display of holiday lights, Aditya Bhattacharya and his family were crossing a street to head home.

Then a driver blew past a red light, slamming into him and his 7-year-old son, Pronov.

"I took one step, that's the last thing I remember," said Bhattacharya, 45. "When I regained consciousness, all I could hear was my wife sitting on the sidewalk, screaming, 'Pronoy's dead.'"

The boy's death at a cross-walk in December, and the seven-week manhunt to find the driver, jolted many people in this part of the West to the grim count of pedestrian deaths, which began surging in New Mexico and other states in 2020.

Two years into the pandemic, such fatalities are soaring into record territory amid a nationwide flare-up in reckless driving.

In various initiatives to reverse the trends, authorities in one state after another are citing factors from the rise in anxiety levels and pandemic drinking to the fraying of social norms.

Last year, New Mexico recorded 99 pedestrian deaths, up from 81 in 2020, and the most since it began tracking such incidents in the 1990s. But while Sun Belt states have been hit particularly hard, the pedestrian death toll spiked last year in many parts of the country.

New Jersey had its highest number of pedestrian fatalities in more than 30 years. Last year was also the deadliest on Utah's roads since the start of the century, as pedestrian deaths rose 22%. Washington state ended 2021 with a 15-year high in traffic fatalities.



Dr. Deepshikha Nag Chowdhury and one of her sons at their home in Albuquerque. A driver ran a stop sign in December and killed her 7-year-old son, Pronoy. The driver fled and surrendered to U.S. Marshals on Jan. 31. **ADRIA MALCOLM/THE NEW YORK TIMES** 

Going into the pandemic, some traffic specialists were optimistic that pedestrian deaths would decline. After all, millions of motorists were slashing their driving time and hewing to social distancing measures.

The opposite happened. Empty roads allowed some to drive much faster than before. Some police chiefs eased enforcement, wary of face-to-face contact. For reasons that psychologists and transit safety experts are just beginning to explain, drivers also seemed to get angrier.

Dr. David Spiegel, director of Stanford Medical School's Center on Stress and Health, said many drivers were grappling with what he calls "salience saturation."

"We're so saturated with fears about the virus and what it's going to do," Spiegel said. "People feel that they get a pass on other threats."

Spiegel said another factor was "social disengagement," which deprives

people of social contact, a major source of pleasure, support and comfort. Combine that loss with overloading our capacity to gauge risks, Spiegel said, and people are not paying as much attention to driving safely.

"If they do, they don't care about it that much," Spiegel said. "There's the feeling that the rules are suspended and all bets are off."

Crashes killed more than 6,700 pedestrians in 2020, up about 5% from the estimated 6,412 the year before, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Based on another commonly used road safety metric — vehicle miles traveled — the group projected that the pedestrian fatality rate spiked about 21% in 2020 as deaths climbed sharply even though people drove much less that year, the largest ever year-over-year increase. And preliminary data from 2021 indicates another increase in the number of pedestrian

deaths.

While other developed countries have made strides in reducing pedestrian deaths over the last several years, the pandemic has intensified several trends that have pushed the United States in the other direction. Crashes killing pedestrians climbed 46% over the last decade, compared with a 5% increase for all other crashes, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Angie Schmitt, who describes pedestrian deaths as a "silent epidemic" in a new book, said the reasons included an aging popula-tion, in which older pedestrians are more vulnerable, and the growth of the Sun Belt region, where cities were designed after World War II to prioritize speed over safety. And ballooning sizes of SUVs and trucks, which have grown heavier with higher front ends, strike people on foot with greater force than before.

Others warn that since

new vehicles have grown larger and safer for the people inside them, with features like lane-departure warnings and rearview cameras, some drivers are emboldened to dismiss the risks to pedestrians.

"There's a portion of the population that is incredibly frustrated, enraged, and some of that behavior shows up in their driving," said Mark Hallenbeck, director of the Washington State Transportation Center at the University of Washington. "We in our vehicles are given anonymity in this giant metal box around us, and we act out in ways that we wouldn't face to face."

The streets of Albuquerque, where Pronoy Bhattacharya was killed in the hit-and-run, showcase the challenges that pedestrians face.

Around the sprawling metro area, home to almost 1 million people, drivers routinely run red lights or speed past stop signs.

Despite such behavior,

residents say they can go years without seeing drivers pulled over for violations of any kind.

After the boy's death, readers flooded The Albuquerque Journal with emails assailing local authorities after having witnessed lawless driving on a daily basis.

Across the country, overall traffic fatalities — not just crashes killing pedestrians — are also rising at a record pace.

Nearly 32,000 people were killed in vehicle crashes in the first nine months of 2021, a 12% increase from the same period in 2020, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It was the highest number of fatalities during the first nine months of any year since 2006 and the highest percentage increase during the first nine months in the reporting system's history.

In the crash that killed Pronoy, the driver was at the helm of an all-terrain vehicle. Such vehicles are illegal on Albuquerque streets but are still commonly seen around the city.

Video footage showed the driver drinking at a bar before the crash.

Pronoy's mother, Dr. Deepshikha Nag Chowdhury, a gastroenterologist at an Albuquerque hospital, pleaded with authorities to find the driver in the weeks that followed. After fleeing the scene and going into hiding, the driver surrendered to U.S. Marshals on Jan. 31.

Bhattacharya, who immigrated to the U.S. from India two decades ago, suffered a facial fracture in addition to losing his son.

He said the crash also shattered some of his views.

"It's ironic that I told so many friends how crossing the street was so safe in the United States compared with India," said Bhattacharya, who works in information technology. "I always thought we'd be safer here."



A bicyclist on Wednesday makes his way past cars destroyed by a flash flood in Petropolis, Brazil. Officials said the area received 10 inches of rain Tuesday. **CARL DE SOUZA/GETTY-AFP** 

# Officials: Devastating floods, mudslides kill scores in Brazil

By Diarlei Rodrigues and David Biller Associated Press

PETROPOLIS, Brazil — The death toll from devastating mudslides and floods that swept through a mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro state has reached 78, local authorities said Wednesday.

The city of Petropolis was slammed by a deluge Tuesday, and Gov. Claudio Castro said almost 400 people were left homeless. Searchers picked through the wreckage; 21 people were recovered alive.

Civilians joined the official recovery efforts.

Among them were Priscila Neves and her siblings, who looked through the mud for any sign of their disappeared parents, but found only clothing. Neves said she had given up hope of finding her parents alive.

And Rosilene Virgilio, 49, was in tears as she recalled the desperate pleas from someone she couldn't save.

"There was a woman screaming, 'Help! Get me out of here!' But we couldn't do anything; the water was gushing out, the mud was gushing out," Virgilio said.

The stricken mountain region has seen similar catastrophes in recent decades, including one that caused more than 900 deaths. In the years since, Petropolis presented a plan to reduce risks of landslides, but work has advanced slowly.

Castro told reporters Wednesday that the situation "was almost like war" and that he was mustering all the state government's heavy machinery to help dig out the buried area.

The state fire department said late Tuesday the area received just over 10 inches of rain within three hours — almost as much as during the previous 30 days combined. Petropolis' civil defense authority said more rain was expected.

Video posted on social media Tuesday showed cars and houses being dragged away by landslides, and water swirling through Petropolis and neighboring districts.

The Globo television network Wednesday showed houses buried beneath mud in areas firefighters hadn't yet been able to access. Several streets remained inaccessible as cars and household goods piled up, blocking access to higher parts of the city.

"The neighbors came down running and I gave them shelter," bar owner Emerson Torre, 39, recalled.

But under torrents of water, his roof collapsed. He managed to get his mother and three other people out of the bar in time, but one neighbor and the person's daughter were unable to escape

escape.

"It was like an avalanche, it fell all at once. I've never seen anything like it," Torre said as rescue helicopters hovered overhead. "Every neighbor has lost a loved one, has lost two, three, four members of the same family, kids."

Petropolis' city hall declared three days of mourning. Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro expressed solidarity while on a trip to Russia, as did his counterpart Vladimir Putin.

"May God comfort their family members," Bolsonaro said Wednesday at a news conference in Moscow.

Petropolis is a German-influenced city named for a former Brazilian emperor.

# FBI: 2 defendants in Arbery's killing often used racial slurs

By Russ Bynum Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Two of the three white men convicted of murdering Ahmaud Arbery repeatedly used racial slurs in text messages and social media posts, including some violent comments by Arbery's shooter about Black people, an FBI witness testified Wednesday in their federal hate

crimes trial. FBI intelligence analyst Amy Vaughan led the jury through more than two dozen conversations that Travis McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan had with others, identified only by their initials, in the months and years before the 25-year-old Black man's killing. The FBI wasn't able to access the phone of Greg McMichael, Travis McMichael's father, because it was encrypted, Vaughan

said.
In text and Face-book conversations with friends, Travis McMichael frequently used the N-word to describe Black people.

In a Facebook conversation with a friend, he also shared a video of a young Black boy dancing on a TV show with a racist song that included the N-word playing over it. He also said that Black people "ruin everything" and said more than once he was glad he wasn't a Black person, using a racial slur.

And in June 2017, Travis McMichael shared a TV news story about a violent confrontation between two white women and two Black customers upset at a Georgia restaurant, using a racial slur to comment that he would beat the Black people "to death if they did that to (name redacted by the FBI) or my mother and sister."

He added that he would have no more remorse than putting down a rabid



An FBI witness said Wednesday that Travis McMichael, left, repeatedly used racial slurs in text messages and social media posts. **STEPHEN B. MORTON/POOL PHOTO** 

The McMichaels armed themselves and used a pickup truck to chase Arbery as he ran through their coastal Georgia neighborhood Feb. 23, 2020. Bryan, a neighbor, joined the pursuit in his own truck and recorded cellphone video of Travis McMichael blasting Arbery with a shotgun. No arrests were made until the video leaked online two months later.

All three men were convicted of murder in a Georgia state court last fall. Their second trial began Monday in U.S. District Court. Prosecutors say the McMichaels and Bryan violated Arbery's civil rights.

Defense attorneys have insisted the deadly pursuit of Arbery was motivated by an earnest, though erroneous, suspicion that Arbery had committed crimes.

Evidence presented Wednesday showed Bryan also used the N-word, but his preferred slur was a derogatory characterization of a Black person's lips. Over a number of years, Bryan exchanged racist messages on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

In messages sent in the days surrounding Arbery's killing, Bryan was upset that his daughter was dating a Black man. Greg McMichael posted a meme on Facebook in 2016 saying white Irish slaves were treated worse than any race in the U.S. but that the Irish aren't asking for handouts.

"I ain't really shocked," Arbery's father, Marcus Arbery, told reporters outside the courthouse.

Defense attorneys didn't dispute the racist posts. They said in opening statements Monday that racist comments by their clients were offensive and indefensible but don't prove they committed hate crimes.

Travis McMichael's attorney, Amy Lee Copeland, said some of his texts and posts lacked context, and "you can't hear that inflection of voice and see what's going on."

Copeland also asked Derek Thomas, who posted the prank video that elicited a violent comment from Travis McMichael, about their friendship. Thomas testified that they have known each other since high school. He said he often checks up on Travis McMichael's mother since the McMichaels' arrests

and convictions.
"Is it fair to say you love the man but hate the words he used?" Copeland asked

Thomas. He replied: "Yes, ma'am."

# Influential Beirut street goes dark

Several crises rock Lebanon's answer to the Champs Elysees

**By Bassem Mroue** Associated Press

BEIRUT - From his small music shop on Beirut's Hamra Street, Michel Eid witnessed the rise and fall of Lebanon through the changing fortunes of this famed boulevard for more than 60

Hamra Street was the center of Beirut's glamour in the 1960s and 1970s, home to Lebanon's top movie houses and theaters, cafes frequented by intellectuals and artists, and shops selling top international brands. It saw a revival the past decade, thriving with international chain stores and vibrant bars and restau-

Now many of its stores are shuttered. Poverty-stricken Lebanese and Syrian refugees beg on its sidewalks. Trash piles up on its corners. Like the rest of Lebanon, the economic crash swept through the street like a destructive storm.

Eid, 88, remembers the bad times, during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, when Hamra saw militias battling, assassinations at its cafes and, at one point, invading Israeli troops marching down the street. Nothing was as bad as now, he says.

"We have hit rock bottom," Eid said. Few customers come to his Tosca Music Shop and Electronic Supplies, which sells records and a variety of small electronics. His business has dropped 75%.

Lebanon's economic meltdown, which began in October 2019, was the culmination of the country's postwar era. The war's militia leaders became the political leadership and have kept a lock on power ever since. They ran an economy that at times boomed but was essentially a Ponzi scheme.



Michel Eid works in his music shop located on Hamra Street in Beirut. Hamra Street was once the place to see and be seen in Lebanon. HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

The scheme finally collapsed in what the World Bank calls one of the world's worst economic and financial crises since the mid-1800s.

The currency's value evaporated, salaries lost their buying power, dollars in banks became inaccessible, prices skyrocketed in a country where nearly everything is imported. As much as 82% of the population now lives in poverty, according to the U.N. Unemployment is estimated at 40%.

The crisis was made worse by the coronavirus pandemic and a massive explosion at Beirut's port that killed 216 people, wounded thousands and destroyed parts of the capital.

While the economic system collapsed, the political one hasn't. The same leadership, entrenched in power, has done virtually nothing to address the crisis. Refusing basic reforms, they have made no progress in talks with the International Monetary Fund.

A walk through Hamra Street shows the impact.

Many shops have shut down because owners could no longer afford high rents and huge monthly bills for private electricity generators. After nightfall, the shops that are still operating close early. Many streetlights don't work because of electricity cuts. Hamra, which used to stay lively into the night, feels deserted before midnight — even during the recent holiday

In Hamra's heyday, in the 1960s and 1970s, the street was lit up with colored lights during Christmas and New Year's, with Santa Clauses up and down the avenue offering candies to pass-

This was Lebanon's cosmopolitan pre-war era and Hamra Street was its elegant heart, Beirut's Champs Elysees. Arab, European and American tourists flocked to its swanky shops, restaurants and bars.

Hamra had the capital's finest movie houses. At its Piccadilly Theater, Lebanon's most beloved singer Fayrouz performed. You might see the international diva Dalida strolling down the avenue before one of her shows at the Piccadilly. World stars held concerts in Lebanon, including Louis Armstrong and Paul Anka.

Located in the capital's western neighborhood of Ras Beirut, Hamra was and still is — a place where Christians and Muslims live side by side. Its cafes were hangouts for artists, intellec-

tuals and political activists, caught up in the leftist, secular Arab nationalist spirit of the times.

The civil war ended that golden era. In 1982, invading Israeli troops marched through Hamra. After they left, militias seized the area in fighting that wreaked heavy damage. Hamra's Commodore Hotel became a popular base for foreign journalists covering the war.

After the war, the center of Beirut's international commerce and shopping moved to a newly renovated downtown. But Hamra Street saw a major facelift in the early 2000s when new water, sewage and electricity systems were installed, and the asphalt was replaced with cobblestones.

Hamra remains a busy thoroughfare during the day. Thousands come for treatment at its medical centers or to study at the nearby American University of Beirut, one of the Middle East's top educational institutions.

But "Hamra is not the Hamra of the past," said Elie

Rbeiz, 70, has been a hairdresser for the elite in Hamra since 1962. He counted among his regular clients the late Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi, who once flew Rbeiz to London on a private jet for a cut. Rbeiz expanded his business 20 years ago to include men's clothes.

Now in the economic crisis, his sales have plunged. Still, Rbeiz believes Hamra will bounce back. He said his shop was blown up during the civil war and he renovated and reopened. "I did not surrender then and will not surrender now.

**P.J. O'ROURKE** 1947-2022

# Prolific author and satirist reshaped 'Gonzo' journalism

Associated Press

NEW YORK - P.J. O'Rourke, the prolific author and satirist who refashioned the irreverence and "Gonzo" journalism of the 1960s counterculture into a distinctive brand of conservative and libertarian commentary, has died at age 74.

O'Rourke died Tuesday morning, according to Grove Atlantic Inc. Books publisher and president Morgan Entrekin. The cause was complications from lung cancer.

Patrick Jake O'Rourke was a Toledo, Ohio, native who evolved from longhaired student activist to wavy-haired scourge of his old liberal ideals, with some of his more widely read takedowns appearing in a founding counterculture publication, Rolling Stone. His career otherwise extended from serving as editor in chief of National Lampoon to a brief stint on "60 Minutes" in which he represented the conservative take on "Point/ Counterpoint"; to frequent appearances on NPR's game show "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!"

"Most well-known people try to be nicer than they are in public than they are in private life. PJ was the only man I knew to be the opposite. He was a deeply kind and generous man who pretended to be a curmudgeon for public consumption," tweeted Peter Sagal, the host of "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!"

His writing style suggested a cross between the hedonism of Hunter S. Thompson and the patrician mockery of Tom Wolfe: Self-importance was a reliable target. But his greatest disdain was often for the government — not just a specific administration, but government itself. As a young man, he opposed the



P.J. O'Rourke was also a familiar figure as an on-air pundit on "60 Minutes" and NPR. MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY 2007

government as a maker of war and laws against drugs. Later on, he went after what he called "the silken threads

of entitlement spending." O'Rourke's other books included "Give War a Chance," "Driving Like Crazy," "None of My Business" and "A Cry From the Middle." Entrekin told The Associated Press that he had been working on a one-volume look at the United States, as seen from his hometown.

His survivors include his second wife, Tina, and three children.

O'Rourke was an undergraduate at Miami University, and received a master's degree in English from Johns Hopkins University in 1970. He started out writing for such underground publications as the New York Ace and joined National Lampoon in 1973, where his colleagues included Douglas Kenney, who later co-wrote "Animal House" and "Caddyshack."

Over the following decades, O'Rourke became a familiar presence as a writer and on-air pundit. He covered war and unrest everywhere from El Salvador to the Philippines, while mocking "The Dictatorship of Boredom" back home.

"In July 1988, I covered the specious, entropic, criminally trivial, boring stupid Democratic National Convention, a numb suckhole stuffed with political bulk filler held in that place where bad malls go to die, Atlanta," reads a dispatch from "Parliament of Whores," a bestseller published in 1991. "Then ... I flew to that other oleo-high colonic, the Republican convention, an event with the intellectual content of a Guns N' Roses lyric."

O'Rourke's rise came a time when political opponents had an easier time agreeing to disagree. Liberal author and commentator Joe Conason tweeted Tuesday that O'Rourke was "always witty if almost always (politically) wrong."

Like other longtime conservatives, O'Rourke's loyalties were tested by Donald Trump. O'Rourke had little use for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016, but he found he could live with what he called her "lies and all her empty promises."

"I mean, she's wrong about absolutely everything, but she's wrong within normal parameters," he said on NPR.

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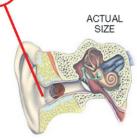
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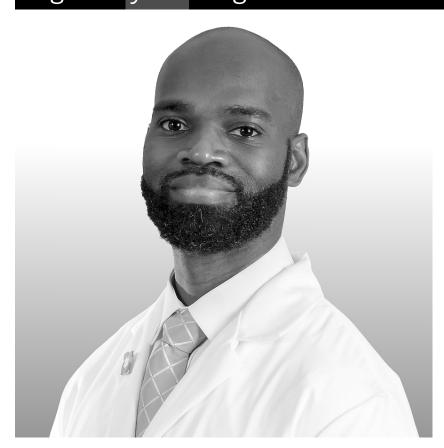
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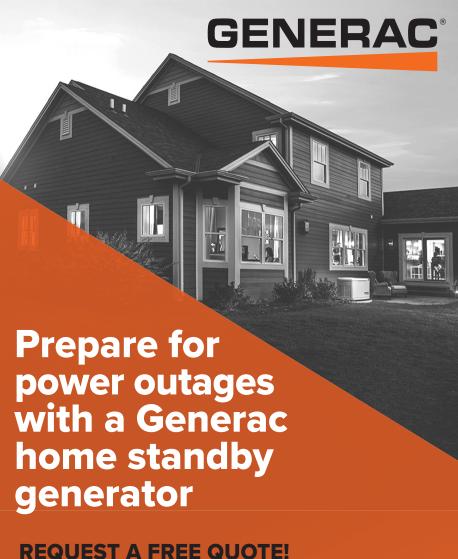
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# BUSINESS

# Consumer spending still brisk as retail sales climb

January's 3.8% increase made amid pay gains, solid hiring — and rising inflation

By Anne D'Innocenzio and Christopher Rugaber Associated Presss

NEW YORK – Fueled by pay gains, solid hiring and enhanced savings, Americans sharply ramped up their spending at retail stores last month in a sign that many consumers remain unfazed by rising infla-

Retail sales jumped 3.8% from December to January, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, a much bigger increase than economists had expected. Though inflation helped boost that figure, most of January's gain reflected more purchases, not higher

Last month's increase was the largest since last March, when most households received a final federal stimulus check of \$1,400. The fact that consumer spending remains brisk even after government stimulus has faded - enhanced unemployment aid ended in September — suggests that Americans' pay is rising enough to drive a healthy pace of spending and economic

Still, those trends could also further accelerate high inflation, which has become the biggest threat to the economy and the reason the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates several times this year beginning in March.

"Consumers say they are worried about inflation, but they continue to spend," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial. "Job growth is strong, wages are increasing and household wealth is way up thanks to rapidly rising home values and, until recently, stock prices."

Retail sales rose solidly across the spectrum in January.

Sales at general merchandise stores rose 3.6% and at department stores 9.2%. Purchases at furniture and home furnishings stores increased 7.2%. Online sales jumped 14.5%.

Restaurants were an outlier in January: Sales fell 0.9%, likely a reflection of many people refraining from dining out at a time when reported omicron infections were exploding.

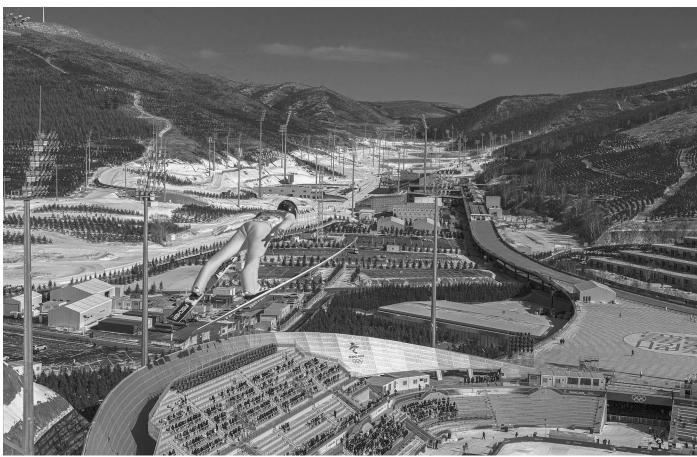
Gasoline sales fell 1.3%, possibly a result of the cost and cases of omicron, which rose in tandem, according to Ted Rossman, a senior industry analyst at Bankrate.com.

Since the pandemic erupted two years ago, spending has continued to be weighted toward goods - things that people can own. But as COVID-19 cases decline, Americans are expected to begin spending more on concerts, movies and dining out.

At the same time, Wednesday's retail report covers only about one-third of overall consumer spending; it doesn't include such services as haircuts, hotel stays and plane tickets.

The omicron variant that emerged in late November caused widespread worker shortages. Yet the wave of the most recent variant appears to have been shortlived. January's robust increase in retail purchases followed gains in October and November before a sharp drop in December, a month when sales are normally high.

The January report comes as retailers are poised to begin releasing their fiscal fourth-quarter financial figures.



The Zhangjiakou National Ski Jumping Center for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Zhangjiakou, China. HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

# China's goal? Economic gold

For host nation, hefty cost of Olympics worth it in terms of infrastructure, jobs, pride

**By Keith Bradsher** The New York Times

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — To make an Olympic ski jump, China clad a hillside in steel and blanketed it with artificial snow. To construct a high-speed rail line linking the venues and Beijing, engineers blasted tunnels through the surrounding mountains. And to keep the coronavirus at bay, workers are conducting tens of thousands of PCR tests on Games participants every

Hosting the Winter Olympics is costing China billions of dollars, a scale of expenditure that has made the event less appealing to many cities around the world in recent years. More and more of them have concluded that the Games are not worth being left with a hefty bill, white elephant stadiums, and fewer benefits from tourism than they had hoped.

But China looks at the Games with a different calculus.

Beijing has long relied on heavy investments in building railway lines, highways

and other infrastructure to provide millions of jobs to its citizens and reduce transportation costs. With the 2022 Games, it also hopes to nurture an abiding interest in skiing, curling, ice hockey and other winter sports that could increase consumer spending, particularly in the country's chilly and economically struggling northeast.

Still, with China's economy already slowing, and a dimming outlook for global growth, as well as concerns that the omicron variant of the coronavirus would lead to more shutdowns and choking of global supply chains, Beijing has been wary of spiraling costs. Even China's leader, Xi Jinping, acknowledged the event had to be streamlined, saying last year that the aim was to hold a "simple, safe, splendid" event.

Practically every Olympics in recent years has triggered disputes over cost overruns. A study at Oxford University had found that the operating costs of Olympics held since 1960 have averaged nearly three times what the host cities originally bid.

The city of Sochi in Russia, which hosted the Winter Olympics in 2014, spent and invested more than \$50 billion - half of which was on infrastructure. When Beijing hosted the Summer Olympics in 2008, it said it had spent \$6.8 billion, but that did not include the tens of billions more it used

to build roads, stadiums, subway lines and an airport terminal.

This time, China has set a budget of \$3 billion, a figure that includes the building of competition venues, but not projects like a \$1 billion high-speed rail line and a \$5 billion expressway.

The pandemic is making the Games even more expensive. The bill for last summer's Olympics in Tokyo included \$2.8 billion in coronavirus prevention costs alone. China's "zero COVID" strategy, which focuses on eradicating outbreaks, has meant infection control measures are more elaborate.

China's concerns about the pandemic dashed hopes the Games would draw tourists. Organizers said last autumn that they would not sell tickets to foreign spectators. Then they announced last month that most Chinese residents would not get

At \$3.1 billion, China's operating budget is comparable to the average, inflation-adjusted cost of hosting previous Winter Olympics, University of Oxford researchers said.

"The success in opening the Winter Olympics has brought positive economic benefits and created new sources of growth for the local economy," said Xu Hejian, the top spokesman for the city of Beijing.

# FAA tells Boeing it will certify new 787s

**By David Koenig** 

Associated Press

Federal safety regulators say they will retain power to approve Boeing 787 airliners for flight rather than return that authority to the aircraft maker, which hasn't been able to deliver any new Dreamliner planes since last May because of production flaws.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it told Boeing of its decision Tuesday.

The FAA said that once deliveries of 787s resume, it will perform final inspections and retain power to clear each new plane until it is confident that Boeing's quality control and manufacturing "consistently produce 787s that meet FAA design standards.'

It also said Boeing must have a plan for handling planes that need reworking.

"This will allow the agency to confirm the effectiveness of measures Boeing has undertaken to improve the 787 manufacturing process," the FAA said.

For years, the FAA has relied on Boeing employees to certify the airworthiness of planes by deputizing some company employees to act on behalf of the agency.

The practice came under intense criticism after two deadly crashes involving Boeing 737 Max jets and revelations that FAA officials knew little about a key flight control systems implicated in the crashes. The crashes killed 346 people.

The 787, a larger plane than the 737, has been plagued by production flaws such as unacceptable gaps between fuselage panels.

Deliveries were stopped briefly in late 2020, then again in May 2021, and have not resumed.

Chicago-based Boeing has more than 100 undelivered 787s.

Boeing, afraid of appearing to pressure the FAA to resume deliveries, has declined to give investors an idea of when 787 shipments might resume.

#### **BUSINESS BRIEFING**

## UK inflation rate hits 30-year high

LONDON - Inflation in the United Kingdom has risen at the fastest rate in almost 30 years as increased costs for energy, housing and transportation squeezed household

The consumer price index ticked up to 5.5% in the 12 months through January and was up from 5.4% the previous month, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday. The latest figure is the highest since March 1992, when inflation reached 7.2%.

U.K. consumers are reeling from a surge in utility bills fueled by increased demand for energy worldwide as the global economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Household natural gas prices jumped 28.3% over the past year and electricity prices rose

## Turkey trying to ease energy bills

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's president announced a set of measures Wednesday that aim to bring relief to households and businesses reeling from high inflation and soaring electricity bills.

In a televised address, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said authorities would readjust the level under which higher electricity tariffs for households using more energy kick in, while some 4 million households in the country of more than 84 million people would receive state subsidies to help with high natural gas and electricity bills.

Civil society organizations would no longer pay the higher energy tariffs that apply to businesses, he said, adding that some small businesses would also be able to benefit from readjusted tariffs.

# Many firms reverting to pre-pandemic days

By Anne D'Innocenzio Associated Press

NEW YORK — For the first time in two years for many people, the American workplace is transforming into something that resembles pre-pandemic days.

Tyson Foods said this week that it was ending mask requirements for its vaccinated workers in some facilities. Walmart and Amazon - the nation's No. 1 and 2 largest private employers respectively – will no longer require fully vaccinated workers to don masks in stores or warehouses unless required under local or state laws. Tech companies like Microsoft and Facebook that had allowed employees to work fully remote are now setting mandatory dates to return to the office after a series of fits and starts.

"There has been a sharp decline in COVID-19 cases across the country over the past weeks," Amazon told workers in a memo. "Along with increasing vaccination rates across the country, this is a positive sign we can return to the path to normal operations."

Microsoft, based in Redmond, Washington, on Monday announced plans to open its West Coast buildings Feb. 28 with a hybrid mix of working in the office and home. Facebook parent Meta Platforms, which had planned to bring workers back to the office Jan. 31, will now require them to return — with proof of a booster shot March 28.

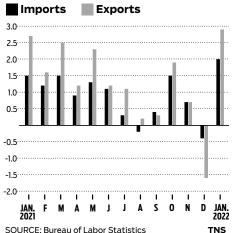
That's a stark reversal from just weeks ago when the omicron variant of COVID-19 was peaking, prompting companies to double-down on mask requirements and enforce daily health screenings while delaying return-to-office plans for remote

Many office workers will still be required to wear masks in the office and get regularly tested. Front-line workers like store clerks and restaurant staff who were already physically going to work will have to adjust to maskless colleagues and customers.

Then there are the old realities of pre-pandemic routines for some: dealing with commuter traffic, putting on dressier clothes again and working alongside co-workers for the first time in two years.

#### US import/export prices

Price index, percentage change from previous month



#### **BUSINESS**



Customs officials in Bangkok, Thailand, display seized ivory tusks. Most of the estimated 1.1 million pounds of poached ivory tusks are sent to Asia annually. SAKCHAI LALIT/AP 2018

# Study: DNA analysis of tusks reveals trafficking networks

**By Christina Larson Associated Press** 

WASHINGTON - As few as three major criminal groups are responsible for smuggling the vast majority of elephant ivory tusks out of Africa, according to a new study.

Researchers used analysis of DNA from seized elephant tusks and evidence such as phone records, license plates, financial records and shipping documents to map trafficking operations across the continent and better understand who was behind the crimes. The study was published Monday in the journal

Nature Human Behavior. When you have the genetic analysis and other data, you can finally begin to understand the illicit supply chain - that's absolutely key to countering these networks," said Louise Shelley, who researches illegal trade at George Mason University and was not involved in the research.

Conservation biologist Samuel Wasser, a study co-author, hopes the findings will help law enforcement officials target the leaders of these networks instead of low-level poach-

"If you can stop the trade where the ivory is being consolidated and exported out of the country, those are really the key players," said Wasser, who co-directs the Center for Environmental Forensic Science at the University of Washington.

Africa's elephant population is fast dwindling. From around 5 million elephants a century ago to 1.3 million in 1979, the total number of elephants in Africa is now estimated to be around 415,000.

A 1989 ban on international commercial ivory trade hasn't stopped the decline. Each year, an estimated 1.1 million pounds of poached elephant tusks are shipped from Africa, mostly to Asia.

For the past two decades, Wasser has fixated on a few key questions: "Where is most of the ivory being poached, who is moving it, and how many people are

He works with wildlife authorities in Kenya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and elsewhere, who contact him after they intercept ivory shipments. He flies to the countries to take small samples of tusks to analyze the DNA. He has now amassed samples from the tusks of more than 4,300 elephants trafficked out of Africa between 1995 and today.

In 2004, Wasser demonstrated that DNA from elephant tusks and dung could be used to pinpoint their home location to within a few hundred miles. In 2018, he recognized that finding identical DNA in tusks from two different ivory seizures meant they were harvested from the same animal — and likely trafficked by the same poaching network.

The new research expands that approach to identify DNA belonging to elephant parents and offspring, as well as siblings - and led to the discovery that very few criminal groups are behind most of the ivory trafficking in Africa.

Such genetic links can provide a blueprint for wildlife authorities seeking other evidence to link different ivory shipments.

## Young workers give US labor unions hope for the future

By Dee-Ann Durbin Associated Press

After decades of decline, U.S. labor unions have a new reason for hope: younger workers.

Workers in their 20s – and even in their teens are leading ongoing efforts to unionize companies large and small, from Starbucks and REI to local cannabis dispensaries. The Alphabet Workers Union, formed last year and now representing 800 Google employees, is run by five people under 35.

Multiple polls show union approval is high — and growing — among the youngest workers. And U.S. union membership levels are even ticking upward for workers between 25 and 34, even as they decline among other age groups.

Between 2019 and 2021, the overall percentage of U.S. union members stayed flat. But the percentage of workers ages 25-34 who are union members rose from 8.8% to 9.4%, or around 68,000 workers, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Young workers say they see unions as the best way to combat wage inequality and poor working conditions. For some, personal heroes like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders — a vocal labor advocate — have piqued their interest in unions. Others say the coronavirus pandemic caused them to rethink what they deserve from their jobs.

"Whatever this is isn't working," said Adriana Alvarez, 29, a McDonald's employee in Chicago. "We obviously need change."

When a union organizer first approached Alvarez in 2014, she was skeptical of his goal to raise her pay to \$15 per hour. At the time, she was making \$8.50 per hour and hadn't gotten a raise in three years.

But she got involved with the Fight for \$15 labor



Adriana Alvarez, a 29-year-old McDonald's employee, learned more about her rights as a worker after getting involved with the Fight for \$15 labor group. CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

group, organizing protests and learning about her rights. McDonald's workers still aren't unionized, but she says her managers are more respectful and have stopped illegal practices, like making workers reimburse the restaurant if they accidentally accept counterfeit money. She now makes \$16.70 per hour.

States and courts, though, have also steadily chipped away at unions' power.

Twenty-seven states now have "right-to-work" laws, which prohibit a company and a union from signing a contract that requires workers to pay dues to the union that represents them. And last year, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a 1975 California regulation that had allowed union organizers to meet with agricultural workers on company property.

Unions last year saw some of their biggest increases among young workers in utilities, the motion picture industry and the federal government, said Hayley Brown, a research associate with the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a nonpartisan think tank.

Brown said there are signs those numbers will continue to rise this year under the labor-friendly Biden administration, which issued proposals this month aimed at increasing unionization rates for federal workers and contractors. In January, there were 170 petitions filed for union elections with the National Labor Relations Board; that was more than double the 83 filed in January 2021.

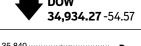
After two Starbucks stores in Buffalo, New York, voted to unionize last year, workers at over 70 Starbucks stores in 21 states petitioned the NLRB to hold their own union elections, according to Workers United, the union organizing the effort.

Derrick Pointer, an electrical lineman in Talladega, Alabama, wasn't convinced he should join the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers when he started working for Halliburton Co. in 2015. At a previous job, his union reps weren't responsive, he said.

But he joined to take advantage of the union's training. Pointer now makes \$42.30 per hour and has generous benefits.

The \$60 he pays in union dues each month is well worth it. Pointer said.

#### MARKET RUNDOWN







#### 35,840 **Dow Jones industrials** Close: 34,934.27 35.060 Change: -54.57 (-0.2%) 10 DAYS 37,600 36,800 36,000 35,200 34,400 33.600

Α .	. 0	N D	JF
	Domestic	Indexes	
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,934.27	-54.57	-3.86%
DOW Trans.	15,294.52	+81.38	-7.18%
DOW Util.	913.04	+2.03	-6.91%
NYSE Comp.	16,770.36	+24.53	-2.29%
Nasdaq Comp.	. 14,124.09	-15.66	-9.72%
S&P 500	4,475.01	+3.94	-6.11%
S&P 400	2,702.37	+7.29	-4.91%
Wilshire 5000	45,285.23	-12.68	-6.55%
Russell 2000	2,079.31	+2.85	-7.39%

Cor	nmoditi	ies	
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl) Natural Gas (mm btu) Unleaded Gas (gal)	93.66 4.72 2.68	92.07 4.31 2.67	+24.53% +26.46% +20.14%
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz) Silver (oz) (Previous and change figures i	1,870.20 23.60 reflect curren	1,854.80 23.34 t contract.)	+2.34% +1.17%

Foreig	gn Excl	hange	Money	/ Rate	S
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx			PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3599	.7353	Prime rate	3.25	3.25
Canada	.7889	1.2676	3-mo. T-Bill	0.40	0.42
China	.1578	6.3372	6-mo. T-Bill	0.68	0.73
Euro	1.1390	.8779	5-yr T-Note	1.90	1.94
Japan	.008665	115.41	10-yr T-Note	2.04	2.04
Mexico	.049359	20.2597	30-yr T-Bond	2.34	2.36
			-		

	Globa	l Marke	ts	
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,370.30	-42.41	28%	-3.24%
London	7,603.78	-5.14	07%	+2.97%
Hong Kong	24,718.90	+363.19	+1.49%	+5.65%
Nikkei	27,460.40	+595.21	+2.22%	-4.62%

#### Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
•							
AMC Entertainment A (AMC AT&T Inc (T)	23.94	+.19 40	-27.7 -2.7	MetLife Inc (MET)	71.53	04	+14.5
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	117.69	-3.78	-18.2	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	299.50	35	-10.9
Airbnb Inc A (ABNB)	186.64	+6.57	+12.1	Novartis AG (NVS)	87.94	+1.52	+.5
American Airlines Gp (AAL)		02	+4.8	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	265.11	+.16	-9.9
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.95	+.15	-12.0	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	78.87	+.08	-9.4
Apple Inc (AAPL)	172.55	24	-2.8	PG&E Corp (PCG)	11.74	+.34	-3.3
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	43.89	+.01	-12.0	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	13.97	20	-23.3
Bakkt Holdings Inc (BKKT)	7.84	56	-7.9	PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	110.54	-4.92	-41.4
Bank of America (BAC)	47.68	11	+7.2	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.34	+.18	+19.8
Barnes Group (B)	47.84	+.83	+2.7	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	49.68	11	-15.9
Barrick Gold (GOLD)	22.23	+1.55	+17.0	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.89	09	-26.2
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2703.26	+68.10	+12.7	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	118.16	+.16	+9.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	67.60	17	+8.4	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.79	+.36	-2.9
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	103.94	+.97	+.8	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	94.75	+.71	+10.1
Carnival Corp (CCL)	23.31	+.53	+15.9	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.75	+.06	1
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	45.65	10	-15.8	Roblox Corp (RBLX)	53.87	-19.43	-47.8
Charter Communic (CHTR)	609.46	+.01	-6.5	SOS Ltd (SOS)	.92	+.21	+12.3
Cigna Corp (CI)	229.00	+.59	3	SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	76.27	13	-7.0
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	48.09	+.04	-4.5	Snap Inc A (SNAP)	40.01	-1.42	-14.9
Disney (DIS)	156.35	+1.63	+.9	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	13.08	+.50	-17.3
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	117.47	41	-7.8	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)		+1.36	-11.4
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.06	24	-4.7	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)		+.06	+2.1
Eversource Energy (ES)	81.65	52	-10.3	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.64	+.02	+10.6
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	78.35	+.36	+28.0	Team Inc (TISI)	1.27		+16.5
Ford Motor (F)	18.01	07	-13.3	Terex Corp (TEX)	45.01	+.80	+2.4
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.50	+.01	+5.8	ToughBuilt Inc (TBLT)	.16	04	-56.2
Gen Dynamics (GD)	214.41	+1.64	+2.8	, ,			
Gen Electric (GE)	101.41	+.49	+7.3	Travelers Cos (TRV)	172.27	+.67	+10.1
Gilead Sciences (GILD)	61.90	+.57	-14.8	Uber Technologies (UBER)	36.58	51	-12.8
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG) Honeywell Intl (HON)	71.22 189.06	+.21 47	+3.2 -9.3	United Rentals (URI)	325.12	+2.25	-2.2
Hookipa Pharma Inc (HOOk		+.73	-9.3 -11.2	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	480.05	+1.82	-4.4
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.33	+.73	+2.6	Upstart Holdings Inc (UPST)			-2.2
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.84	05	-9.8	ViacomCBS Inc B (VIAC)	29.58	-6.41	-2.0
Intel Corp (INTC)	48.23	05	-6.3	Virgin Galactic Hldg (SPCE)	10.03	71	-25.0
Kaival Brands Innov (KAVL)		54	+235.6	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	263.96	+1.93	-11.2
Kaman (KAMN)	42.98	+.44	4	Voya Financial (VOYA)	72.39	+.77	+9.2
Keycorp (KEY)	26.61	+.08	+15.0	Webster Financial (WBS)	61.98	56	+11.0
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	73.51	+.74	+7.7	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	58.14	24	+21.2
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	45.17	+.09	+.6		1059.84	+4.30	+4.5
Macy's Inc (M)	26.11	+.68	3	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	57.45	84	+16.4
Marathon Oil (MRO)	21.07	+.53	+28.3	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	71.41	+1.79	-7.8
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	216.54	-4.46	-35.6	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	23.18	+1.03	+2.4
Meten Holding Group (MET		+.03	-4.4	Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	8.90	15	+39.1
5				1			

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# PINION

# Trump's accountants just quit. What took so long?

By Timothy L. O'Brien

Bloomberg Opinion

Donald Trump's accountants, Mazars USA LLP, decided to call it quits. For the former president and his three eldest children, it's an unwelcome development that amplifies financial pressures enveloping their company, the Trump Organization.

It also raises the stakes in a pair of high-profile fraud investigations of the

All of which leads to me wonder: What took you so long, Mazars? And if the Trumps can't find an accountant while law enforcement officials continue to comb through their finances, how easy will it be for their debt-laden company to continue moving forward?

Mazars said in a letter it sent the Trump Organization last week that it could no longer vouch for a decade's worth of financial statements it helped prepare. It also cited recent revelations in court documents, its own due diligence, the Trump Organization's apparent unwillingness to share information and what it described as a "non-waivable conflict of interest" as reasons why it will no longer work with

the family. Mazars also said that it doesn't believe that "the financial statements, as a whole, contain material discrepancies."

The Trumps, like most real estate developers, rely on massive bank loans to finance their operations. Their company has more than \$590 million of debt coming due within the next four years, and Trump himself has personally guaranteed more than half of it. Banks are likely to find it untenable to keep doing business with a company or individuals already rejected by their own accountants. Trump still has ample political leverage he could bring to bear on potential investors and lenders, but if he (like his son-in-law, Jared Kushner) courts overseas money then a variety of national security issues arise.

It's momentous, of course, that Mazars decided to act now, though its reasons for doing so still aren't entirely clear. I suspect it has everything to do with the firm's concern about its exposure to the Manhattan district attorney and New York State attorney general's probes of the Trumps. The latter disclosed Mazars's letter to the Trumps in a court filing on Monday. New York officials are examining, in part, whether the Trumps inflated the value of

their assets to secure loans or more generous write-offs but low-balled the value of their properties to keep their tax bills

Yet, for all of the recent information that has given Mazars pause, the gist of what the firm is now responding to is hardly new. Trump unsuccessfully sued me for libel in 2006 for a book I wrote, "Trump-Nation," that also raised questions about how he valued his assets and how much money he had. During the course of that litigation, my attorneys deposed Trump's accountants (then part of a predecessor firm, M.R. Weiser & Co.). My attorneys asked the bookkeepers how they arrived at valuations contained in documents similar to those they're now disavowing.

Donald Bender, a Mazars partner, had difficulty explaining a memo he drafted that described Trump's valuations as "subjective." The veteran accountant also said in his deposition that he lacked "the professional expertise to discuss valuations." Another accountant said he hadn't tried to independently corroborate the information he received from the Trump Organization. His firm also noted that the documents in question didn't comport

with standard accounting practices.

Not all of the documents Trump's accountants helped prepare were always so flimsy. If lenders or regulators wanted more thorough documentation, the accountants said, they would draw up financial statements that complied with standard procedures. Documents shared with reporters and others who were less demanding went out with less vetting.

Trump's accountants were willing to let that stuff get out into the wild, I guess, because reporters didn't have subpoena power or the ability to take other legal actions. But a much more serious chess match is afoot now, and those who have helped the Trumps maintain their charade in the past are now reconsidering their options. Once law enforcement enters the picture, people's thinking changes.

It shouldn't have taken this long for Trump's accountants to reconsider their relationship with their client, but here we

Now we'll see what kind of reckoning

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# Canada's trucker protest fascinating



Jonah Goldberg

On Monday, Canadian Prime Minster Justin Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act in order to clear out the trucker protests in Ottawa.

From the beginning, I've remained quietly

fascinated by the whole spectacle. Quietly, because I've struggled to figure out what I think about them, fascinated because they are a window on the political transformations on both sides of the 49th parallel.

The protests began as a revolt against a new and ill-advised vaccine mandate in January requiring unvaccinated truckers to get the shot or isolate for two weeks each time they crossed the U.S. border. While I think everyone should get vaccinated, the rule made little sense in an 80% vaccinated country or for an occupation that involves almost no human interaction. Truckers aren't nurses or schoolteachers. Solitude comes with the job. Besides, Canadian truckers are already 90% vaccinated.

Of course, the protesters' passion came from the built-up frustration with two years of lockdowns and mandates. And, as often happens with mass protests, the demands metastasized over time. Now they want Trudeau's government to dissolve and hold new elections. The demand is merely impractical - the protests were never particularly popular in Canada. But illegally blockading streets and bridges as a kind of political extortion is indefensible — whether it's Canadian truckers or Black Lives Matter protesters or any other group.

What truly fascinates me is the reactions to the Canadian protests here in the U.S. They highlight the way the coalitions that make up the left and right have changed profoundly, and how their attitudes and ideas are changing as a result.

If I were to describe these protests to a left-winger 50 — or 150 years — ago they would sound great. Proletarian laborers spontaneously using their class power to monkey-wrench the wheels of global capitalism to press their grievances! This was once the stuff of heroic socialist agitation. The fact that tow truck drivers refused to help remove the blockade would be seen as the very soul of worker solidarity. Now, when GoFundMe announced it would cut off donations to the truckers, liberals shrugged or cheered.

One explanation is that the pandemic



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked Canada's Emergencies Act to quell protests by truckers in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

has been subsumed into the preexisting culture war fight. That's why Trudeau, who is squarely on the liberal side of that divide, reflexively deployed every woke accusation imaginable at the largely peaceful strikers. Picking out a smattering of ugly signs - and one Confederate flag-Trudeau tried to tar the whole bunch with guilt by association as peddlers not just of racism and Nazism but "transphobia," too. Rather than meet with the protesters, he chose scorn: "Hate can never be the answer," he insisted.

This points to a larger explanation. The old prism of class has been supplanted by the prism of identity politics. As the Democratic Party is increasingly dominated by people with college and graduate degrees, the white working-class core of the old FDR coalition has steadily migrated rightward (and there are early signs of a non-white working class migration as well). Leading Democrats speak the

language of "intersectionality," using terms like "Latinx" that leave many Latinos cold. In the early days of the pandemic, mass protests in violation for lockdowns were acceptable — even laudatory — when done in the name of racial justice. But protests from truckers - or parents - who just want to return to normal? They're derided as anti-science or worse.

Meanwhile, conservatives, traditionally the champions of law and order, never mind the free flow of commerce, fell in love with the truckers and their disobedience. Anti-mandate absolutism is, again, part of the story. But many on the right in the U.S. have also convinced themselves that the Republican Party must become a nationalistic "workers party." The condescending liberal elites, undemocratic technocratic experts and woke globalists running the Democratic Party have made the GOP the natural home of the working stiff, they argue. This stuff can be exaggerated, of

course, but there's an underlying truth to it as well.

These domestic tectonic cultural changes turned the Ottawa protesters into a kind of Rashomon story or Spanish Civil War — a foreign conflict that illuminates how culture war combatants see the fight at home. It's a confusing transition, and neither side has quite figured out how adapt to their new coalitional imperatives, never mind adopt public policies that fit them. Perhaps to compensate for this fact, the rhetoric has outstripped the reality. Each side glibly accuses the other of being an existential threat, pitting transphobic Nazis according to one side against totalitarians according to the other.

Neither side is right about the other, but it's unlikely the two will realize that any time soon.

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# Who's going to pay Prince Andrew's hefty settlement?

By Adrian Wooldridge Bloomberg Opinion

The British monarchy is an exercise in defying historical gravity. In 1900, most of the world was governed by royal dynasties. Today, they are a vanishing breed. The Romanovs, Hohenzollerns and Habsburgs have gone up in flames. Britain's royal family is unusual, along with Japan's, in preserving the magnificence if not the substance of power.

The Prince Andrew affair — his entanglement with Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell and, through them, his accuser, Virginia Giuffre — is the worst thing that has happened to the Windsors since Edward VIII's abdication in 1936.

A month ago, the prince was bravely promising to clear his name in court of charges that he sexually abused and raped Giuffre on three separate occasions when she was 17. On Tuesday, he reached an out-of-court settlement with her in which he agreed to pay a "substantial donation" - estimates suggest it was in excess of \$13.5 million — to her charity supporting the rights of victims of sexual abuse. The terms of the deal prevent either side from discussing the case or the settlement itself in public. The prince didn't issue an apology or admit to any wrongdoing. But he has cleared himself of legal jeopardy by leaving

his reputation, such as it was, in tatters. "His final disgrace" was the tabloid headline splashed on The Sun.

The settlement has put paid to any chance of the prince returning to public life. The queen had already prepared for this eventuality last month by stripping him of his military titles and royal patron-

The real question is whether culling a single mangy stag will be enough to save the rest of the herd.

The royal family prides itself on its professionalism, calling itself The Firm and enjoying the assistance of high-flying diplomats and civil servants. But the Prince Andrew affair could hardly have been handled worse. The prince's November 2019 interview with Newsnight's Emily Maitlis was a masterclass in how not to handle a crisis — express no sympathy for a trafficked teenager, make weird claims about not being able to sweat, and boast about growing up in a castle. Powerful courtiers who knew the prince's limitations should have stepped in to prevent it. His legal defense was equally boneheaded: the team, which he put together himself, essentially followed the same failed legal strategy as Maxwell by trying to paint Giuffre as a fortune hunter. Its American rivals, led by David Boies, ran rings around them.

The payment of such a huge sum also

raises troubling questions about the royal finances. Who will sign the check? Prince Andrew's accounts are likely a hopeless mess — and contain the makings of more embarrassing headlines if the press decides to probe them. He certainly can't lay his hands on more than \$13 million with any ease. The most likely source of the money is the queen, as some reports are already saying. But that raises even more sensitive questions. Why does she enjoy taxpayer subsidies if she has millions at her disposal? And should the head of the British state be buying her son's way out of a sex scandal? Not a good look at a time when living standards are falling and #MeToo sentiments rife.

For now, the royal family is protected by the queen's enormous and enduring popularity, which was founded on her consummate professionalism but is burnished, as she ages, by her fortitude in dealing with life's tragedies, not least the death of her husband last year. Still, she cannot go on forever. Prince Charles is a loose cannon. The finances of his charity, the Prince's Foundation, are under scrutiny: The Metropolitan Police announced it is going to investigate claims it helped to procure honors for a Saudi Arabian citizen. (A spokesman said the heir to the throne had "no knowledge of the alleged offer of honors.") Meanwhile, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are in the habit, if not the business, of stirring up royal controversies. Opinion polls suggest that younger people are turning against the institution. The furious reaction on Twitter to Prince Andrew's out-of-court settlement suggests that the sleeping beast of republicanism may be beginning to awaken.

To secure its long-term survival, The Firm needs to do more than lock Prince Andrew in a castle and hope that the public will forget about him. It needs to learn some lessons from this whole sordid affair. It needs to prune the royal tree severely stop funding minor royals (who are always a potential source of scandals) and focus exclusively on the direct heirs to the throne. It still galls that Prince Andrew's younger daughter Eugenie was treated to an all-singing-and-dancing royal wedding at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle: She's only 12th in line to the throne. Better professionals must be hired to improve the operation of the royal machine — as well as appointing courtiers who have a passing acquaintance with the 21st century.

Defying gravity requires constant self-reinvention as well as ceaseless effort. Falter for a moment and you plummet, painfully, to Earth.

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Park Waitlist 80 Shield Street, West Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark date between February 16, 2022 and May 10, 2022, and received no later than May 17, 2022; or Requesting an appointment during the application period if assistance is needed to complete the preapplication. Please note: Assistance with completing the application will be offered by appointment ONLY due to the current COVID Pandemic.

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IMPOUND - #171 Chihuahua Mix Female Brown & White, #172 Pit-bull Mix, White Brindle, Male, #173, Pit-bull Boxer Mix, Female, Black & White Call Hartford PD 860-757-



#### Antiques/ Classics

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-209-6629

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### Hartford

LEGAL NOTICE West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District 580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100, Bloomfield, CT Virtual Public Hearing

The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 01, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Health District budget. Copies may be obtained from the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District office or on the Health District website, www.westhartfordct.gov/health. The public hearing will be conducted exclusively as a virtual public hearing in accordance with Governor Lamont's executive orders regarding the conduct of public meetings and proceedings.

Any interested person(s) may participate in the public hearing by calling at the scheduled date and time and using the following access code: The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District

code:
March 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting
ID: 842 4998 4990 Call: +1 301 715 8592
Access Code: 323515
Participants using caller ID blocking will not
be permitted to participate. Participants will
be muted upon entry into the public hearing
and only unmuted once prompted by the
Chair/Moderator.

2/15-2/26/22 7143536

#### Connecticut

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The Town Council of the Town of Cromwell, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. in the Cromwell Town Hall, Council Chambers, located 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT regarding the proposed 2022-2023 (five year) Capital Improvement Program. Citizens may direct comments regarding the proposed Capital Improvement Program to mayor@cromwellct.com.

cromwellct.com. A copy of the Capital Improvement Program, in its entirety, is available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, 41 West Street, Cromwell, Connecticut and will be posted online at www.cromwellct.com. Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut this 17th day of February 2022.

Allan Spotts, Mayor 2/17/2022 7148932

#### INVITATION TO BID TOWN OF COLEBROOK Colebrook Elementary School SECURITY UPGRADE PROJECT

Sealed bids are invited and will be received at the Colebrook Board of Education 452 Smith Hill Road, Colebrook, CT. 06021 for the following bid package: 1) "Colebrook Elementary School Security Upgrade Elementary School Security Upgrade Project". All bid packages must be submit-ted on the forms provided and marked with the name of the bid package that is being bid. All bids must meet the requirements of the request for proposal (RFP) and be received no later than 1:00 PM, Wednesday, March 9, 2022. For all questions, please contact Roger LaFleur at 860-485-8879 or Pmrlafleur@vahoo.com

Please visit Colebrook Public School's web page @ https://www.colebrookschool.org/ administration/board-of-education/schoolsecurity-project for the RFP and full project

plans, specifications.

All bid questions are to be submitted by Monday, March 7, 2022.

A mandatory pre-bid site visit is scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2022 at 3:00 pm at the Elementary School at 452 Smith Hill Road, Colebrook, CT 06021.

Equipment to be purchased and installed will meet all the requirements as specified in plans, specifications. This project will be funded fully or in part by Town funds. Bids not meeting the requirements in specifications, plans and the RFP will be immediately disqualified.

2 hard coojes must be submitted.

disqualified.

2 hard copies must be submitted.

All bids over \$50,000 must be accompanied by a 5% bid bond or Certified Check of the base bid and must be submitted with the bid package and made payable to the Town of Colebrook. The Town of Colebrook reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities, or; to accept or reject any bid deemed in the best interests of the Town of Colebrook.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days.

AN AFFIMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

2/17, 2/18/2022 7152164

#### Connecticut

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED
ACQUISITION OF CONTROL OF
PRUDENTIAL RETIREMENT INSURANCE PRUDENTIAL RETIREMENT INSURANCE
AND ANNUITY COMPANY BY
GREAT-WEST LIFE & ANNUITY INSURANCE
COMPANY, GWL&A
FINANCIAL INC., GREAT-WEST LIFECO U.S.
LLC, GREAT-WEST

LLC, GREAT-WEST
FINANCIAL (NOVA SCOTIA) CO., GREAT-WEST LIFECO INC., POWER FINANCIAL
CORPORATION, POWER CORPORATION
OF CANADA, PANSOLO HOLDING INC.,
AND THE DESMARAIS FAMILY RESIDUARY TRUST.

Notice is hereby given that the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Connecticut will conduct a public hearing on February 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in room 601 at the Connecticut Insurance Department, 6th Floor, 153 Market Street, Hartford, CT. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to sections 38a-129 through 38a-140, 4-166 through 4-184, as applicable, of the Connecticut General Statutes; and sections 38a-8-1 through 38a-18-18, as applicable, of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies. This hearing shall be held in a hybrid fashion with a limited number of individuals being physically present and the remainder appearing remotely via telephone and video conference, in the event of a building closure, the hearing shall be held in an entirely virtual manner. Members of the public can attend this hearing via telephone by dialing 860-840-2075 and using passcode 868 913 523#. The hearing will include a period devoted exclusively to public comment. Persons interested in being designated a party or intervenor should consult sections 38a-48 and 38a-849 of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies.

the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies.

The public hearing is being held on the question of granting approval pursuant to section a8a-132(b)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes of the application filed by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company, GWL&A Financial Inc., Great-West Lifeto U.S. LLC, Great-West Financial (Nova Scotia) Co., Great-West Lifeto Inc., Power Financial Corporation, Power Corporation of Canada, Pansolo Holding Inc., and The Desmarais Family Residuary Trust (collectively, the "Applicants"), dated August 17, 2021, and as amended and restated on January 27, 2022 (the "Application"). The Application 2022 (the "Application"). The Application requests the Insurance Commissioner's

approval, as required by section 38a-130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, of the proposed acquisition of control of Prudential Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company (the "Domestic Insurer"). The Proposed Acquisition will be affected pur-

suant to the terms of the Master Transaction Agreement (the "Agreement") between by and among the Domestic Insurer and the Applicants, dated as of July 20, 2021. The official record of this proceeding, which includes a copy of the Application and the Agreement, is on file with the Connecticut surance Department at 153 Market Street 7th floor, Hartford, Connecticut and is avail able for public inspection during regular business hours, it is also available on the Connecticut Insurance Department's website at https://portal.ct.gov/cid.

At the public hearing, representatives of the Applicants and the Domestic Insurer, as well as any other party or intervenor designated by the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to sections 38a-8-48 and 38a-8-49 of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies, and his appointed hearing officer, will appear and be heard concerning the consideration by the Insurance Commissioner of the Application. The public will, at the hearing officer's discretion and in accordance with section 4-177c(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, be given an opportunity to comment on the Application with respect to the issues to be considered by the Insurance Commissioner. Written statements may Commissioner. also be submitted during the public com-ment portion of the public hearing or filed with the Insurance Department prior to the close of business on February 22, 2022, by mailing or delivering such statements to the Connecticut Insurance Department, PO. Box 816. Hartford, CT 06142-0816. Attention: Jennifer M. Dowty, Esq.
The Insurance Department does not discrimi-

nate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, in accordance with Title services or activities, in accordance with little II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids for communication or other accommodation are invited to make their needs and preferences known by calling Victoria Cruise at (860) 757,5340 Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 3rd day

2/9, 2/16/2022 7146973

STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUVENILE MATTERS NOTICE

Notice to Laura Tobey, formerly of Dayville

of parts unknown A petition has been filed seeking: Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decisions can affect the parental rights, if any regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 3/29/2022 at 10:15 a.m. at SCJM, 978 Hartford Turnpike, Waterford, CT 06385

Therefore, ORDERED that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, PO BOX 569, Hartford, CT 06141

Judge Barbara A. Hoffman, Signed by Lisa M. Rinato, Dep. Chief Clerk, Date signed 2/16/2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction Extra space Storage will note a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 578 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT 06804, February 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Daniel Griffin unit 2543, business inventory. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and advertised to have referenced facility in order. paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 2/10, 2/17/2022 7144186

Enfield CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/ DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; Enfield CT-North Thompson Fire House Roof Replacement. Trades; carpentry, plumbing lightning protection, portable restrooms. Material Supply; Flatstock Metal, Lumber. Our bid submits on Wednesday, February Our bid submits on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktown-roofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal 2/17/2022 7151671

#### NOTICE OF DECISION CROMWELL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

At its Public Hearing and Regular Meeting on Monday, February 14th, 2022, the Cromwell Water Pollution Control Authority "CWPCA" took the following action:

1. Approved of the 2022/2023 Sewer Assessment Budget of \$33,000

2. Approved of the 2022/2023 Sewer Usage Budget of \$2,407,980

3. Approved of the 2022/2023 Sewer CNR Fund of \$1,023,000

4. Approved of the 2022/2023 Sewer User EDU Rate at \$275 EDU Rate at \$275
Any appeal from such Public Hearing
Decision must be filed with the Superior
Court within 21 days of the filing of said
established Sewer User EDU Rate of \$275
on February 14th, 2022.
Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut this 16th day

of February 2022 Alice Kelly, CWPCA Chairman 2/17/2022 7152549

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

NOTICE to John Doe father of female child born 04/02/2007 to Tonya W. of parts unknown

A petition has been filed seeking:

Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody will be heard on: 03/24/2022 at 11:45am @SCJM, 1 Court Street, Middletown, Ct 06457

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the: Hartford Courant a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of: Hartford CT

norable Tejas Bhati Judge Pranvera Cirraga Administrative Clerk Date Signed: 02/10/2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is

Ramden CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; Hamden CT. Dunbar Hill Elementary School-Hamden CT. Trades; carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, masonry, asbestos abatement, portable restrooms, window installation, skylight installation, translucent panel installation. Material Supply; flatstock metal, lumber, skylights, roof hatches, roof railings. Our bid submits on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcon Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. 2/17/2022 7152340

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Mansfield Historic District Commission will hold the following public hearing on 2/23/2022 via a web-based virtual meeting to hear comments regarding the following

6:35 PM: Application for a Certificate of

Appropriateness to authorize replacement of a portion of the roof with metal on property located 564 Storrs Road, Assessor's Parcel ID 29.115.9. (HDC File Number H0008) Information on how to participate in the public hearing will be on the meeting agenda, which will be posted at http://www.mansfieldct.gov/AgendaCenter no less than 24 hours before the meeting. No information from the public shall be received after the close of the Public Hearing. Additional information regarding this application is available by emailing planzonedept@mansfieldct.org. Gail Brunh, Chair ID 29.115.9. (HDC File Number H0008)

2/17/2022 7152202

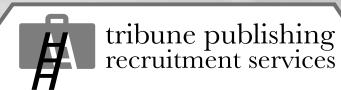
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#### **OBITUARIES BY TOWN**

Berlin Alexander Stephenson Bloomfield Merope Cusano **Bristol Gary Johnston** East Hartford

William Howard, Jr. Ellington Robert K. Hughey Glastonbury Mae A. Caruso Steven J. Pensiero Manchester Scott Fluet **New Britain** Getahun Asres

Newington Barbara Jankowski Elaine Kane **Old Saybrook** Alexander Stephenson Other Towns in CT Robert J. Boy Scott Fluet Elaine Kane Lawrence B. Morse Anita F. Ramm Rocky Hill

Barbara Jankowski **South Windsor** William Howard, Jr. Suzanne B. Laverdiere Steven J. Pensiero Southington Robert J. Boy

Suffield Douglas Mckown Vernon Robert K. Hughey Wethersfield

Merope Cusano Windsor Kenneth W. Mahon

\* Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Asres, Getahun



Getahun Asres, 79, of New Britain, passed away peace-fully on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by his family. He was the beloved husband of Giffti (Hailu) Asres. Born in Ethiopia, son of the late Asres Abegaz and Zewditu Fetene. He settled in New Britain 25 years ago after coming to the U.S. from Ethiopia. He was a

dedicated teacher. He was a kind, gentle, humorous and loving soul. Along with his wife, he leaves his four children, Robel Asres and his wife Kidest of VA, Selamawit Asres Maru and her husband Emmanuel of MD, Abell Asres and Alemayehu Asres both of New Britain, and his two grandchildren, Ruhama Asres and Emmanuel Maru, Jr. He also leaves his sister, Almaz Abebe of MD, his brother Anethhe Asres and his wife Geraldine of East Granby, several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his sister Asegedech Asres. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday, February 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington followed by a prayer service at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. He will be laid to rest following the service in Fairview Cemetery, New Britain. To share a memory with his family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### Caruso, Mae A. (Cohn)



Mae Caruso passed away peacefully at the age of 101 ½ years on February 10, 2022, in Glastonbury, CT. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Enrico Caruso, and is survived by her three children survived by her three children, Michele Caruso, Enrico Caruso Jr. (Denise), Michael Caruso; 2 grandchildren, Christina Mason (Greg), Pamela Bregg (Donovan); and 2 great-grand-

children, Charlotte, and Miles Mason. Mae was born Marianne Cohn, the youngest of 6 children, to Anna and Ellis Cohn in Brooklyn, New York, on August 24, 1920. She grew up in Brooklyn and Long Island, eventually joining her brothers as a bookkeeper in the family engraving business. On Christmas Day, 1942, Mae married the love of her life, Enrico, in Denver, CO, returning to New York after the war where together they built a successful hairstyling business that thrived for 35 years featuring a star-studded clientele including Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, and Jacqueline Kennedy. Mae was ahead of her time, a role model and an enduring inspiration for generations of women, managing to combine her responsibilities as business manager with raising 3 children in the 1950s and '60s. She never missed a dance recital or a swim meet. Through it all she exhibited an impeccable sense of style and elegance, always looking like she just stepped off the cover of Vogue. She was relentlessly curious and loved to learn. Post-retirement, she earned an IATA certification enabling her to book and enjoy traveling the world with Enrico. She became a licensed realtor and bought a house; earned an interior design license, and decorated the house. She was a voracious reader; possessing a scary sense of humor, she devoured Stephen King novels and pronounced them hilarious. Her passion for shopping was legendary; she tackled the malls with joy in her heart and a killer instinct. She was a cut-throat Bridge player; she did not like to lose. Mae's outlook was unfailingly optimistic and she met the challenges and rewards of her life's journey with a perpetual sense of wonder and an ethereal grace that charmed the hearts of all who knew her. After residing in Ft. Lauderdale, FL for 35 years, she moved back to the northeast, living her final years at The Hearth in Glastonbury, CT, where she was affectionately known as "Lady Mae" to the many aids and nursing staff that cared for her. Mae Caruso loved generously and was well-loved.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### Fluet, Scott



Scott Fluet, 64, of Columbia, CT, beloved husband and fa-ther to Christine (Hellstrom) Fluet, son Alex and daughter Geneva, passed away on February 7, 2022. He was born in Manchester, CT to Shirley (Bragdon) and the late Norman Fluet Norman Fluet.

Scott was Scout Master to Columbia Boy Scout Troop

162 for a number of years. As a Project Supervisor,
Scott built and restord many commercial buildings in

Scott built and restored many commercial buildings in CT, RI, NY, MA, and MI. He also built homes in Russia during the 1990's. He was always lending a helpful hand to anyone that was in need.

He is survived by his wife, Christine (Hellstrom) Fluet; children, Geneva, Alex and his fiancé, Tiffany; siblings, Dana and his wife Ann, Brian and his wife Sharon, Chris and his wife Candy, Sarah Allard, Barry and his wife Terri, Ken and his girlfriend Nicole; and his sister in law, Tammy.

His services will be at the convenience of his family. For an online memorial guestbook, please visit www. potterfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Boy, Robert J.



Robert J. Boy, Southington, passed away at his home February 15, 2022 surrounded by his family. He had been the loving husband of Patricia (Radda) Boy for nearly 67 years. Bob was born on April . 14, 1933 in Old Lyme, CT. He proudly served his country in the U. S. Army during the Korean War and worked as a lineman and supervisor for CL & P, retiring after 37

years of service. Bob was a founding member of St. Dominic Church in Southington and ran the 300 Club for many years. He was a certified electrician and built many homes in Southington and Bristol. In addition to his wife Pat, Bob is survived by 4 children: Bobby Boy and his wife Phyllis of Hartwill, GA; Rosalyn Fahey and her husband Gregory of Madison; Roger Boy and his wife Lisa of Punta Gorda, FL and Rory Boy and his wife Karen of Cheshire and 10 grandchildren; Matthew and Mark Boy, Weston Fahey, Julia Fahey and her fiancé Dan Trusty, Joshua and Jeremy Boy, Justin Talalaj and Andrew, Christopher and William Boy. He is also sur-Andrew, Christopher and William Boy. He is also survived by one sister Marion and several nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by an infant son, Mark and many sisters and brothers. In lieu of flowers, donations in Bob's memory may be made to Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care, 267 Finch Ave, Meriden, CT 06451 or to the Veteran's Affairs, VA CT Voluntary Services, 555 Willard Ave. Newington, CT 06111. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022 at St. Dominic Church, 1050 Flanders of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 21, 2022 at St. Dominic Church, 1050 Flanders Rd, Southington. Please meet directly at church. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Thomas Cemetery, Southington. Calling hours will be held from 2 - 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at the Plantsville Funeral Home, 975 S. Main St, Plantsville. For online condolences and directions, please visit www.plantsvillefuneralhome.com neralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### Cusano, Merope "Mary" (Macris)



"Mary" Merope Cusano, 92, beloved wife of the late Chris Cusano, Sr., passed away suddenly on Wednesday, January 19, at her home in Wethersfield. Mary was born on November 28, 1929 in Hartford to the late Georgia (Pantazi) and James Macris. Prior to her retirement Mary was employed by the Travelers Insurance Company.

Mary's greatest joy was spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed playing bingo at the Senior Center, watching her favorite soap operas, listening to music and frequenting the casino with her partner in crime,

Mary will be dearly missed and forever remembered by her daughter, Cheryl Leva and Thomas Larkum of Bloomfield, CT her son Chris Cusano Jr. of Manhattan, NY and her grandson, Jimmy Leva and his wife, Chantal of New Jersey. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. Máry was predeceased by her two sisters Emily Matarangas and Virginia Syverson. The family would especially like to thank Maria and James Matarangas for their love and support over the years.

Merope will be remembered for her gentle spirit and for the unselfish, caring and giving person she was.

Funeral services will be private. In memory of Merope, donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org). Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com.

> Sheehan Hilborn Breen FUNERAL HOME

#### Kane, Elaine



Elaine (Zapor) Kane, 69, of Coventry, peacefully passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at Hartford Hospital after a long journey with bladder cancer. She was born in Hartford on November 12, 1952 to Florence and William Zapor. Elaine was raised in Newington where she graduated from Newington High in 1971. Shortly after high

house on her own in Coventry where she was a longtime resident of 40 years. After working at the Aetna she raised her 2 children for many years until entering back into the workforce. She was a dedicated employee working in banking where she met many longtime friends. Elaine ended up retiring from Savings Institute and a part time job at Big Y in 2019 due to her illness when she was diagnosed in 2018. Elaine was an active community member where she volunteered in school classrooms, band boosters, and at her church of St. Mary's as a CCD teacher. She was always eager to help where she could. Elaine was very independent and a hard worker throughout her life. Although the cancer stopped her from working it did not stop Elaine from living her life and making memories with family and friends. Elaine enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow and would attend as many activities they were in as she could, she spent many great times with family and friends and recently traveled cross country with her friend over the summer of 2021. So many memories through the years that meant so much to Elaine.

Elaine is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Melissa and Derek Kjellquist of Andover and son Jonathan Kane of Coventry; brother and sister-in-law William and Valerie Zapor of Newington; step-sister Paula Foley and her husband Christopher Foley of South Windsor; step-brother Peter and his wife Alice of Old Lyme; her adored grandchildren, Brianna, Haley and Blake Kjellquist; her beloved goddaughter, Stephanie Schumacher; along with nieces and nephews; as well as numerous relatives and friends. Elaine was predeceased by her father, William Zapor; mother, Florence Baril; step-father Leonard Baril; nephews, Christopher Zapor and Matthew Foley.

The family would also like to thank Dr. Kamradt and The family would also like to thank Dr. Kamradt and all of his office staff (Lou), Hartford Hospital infusion centers and the staff on CB2 at Hartford Hospital along with her Hospice team for providing Elaine with such care and compassion in her last moments with us and reminding her that she was an inspiration. Elaine was so appreciative of all the love and support she had throughout her journey from professionals, family and friends. She did not lose her battle, she fought to the very end so strong with grace and confidence.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Tuesday, February 22nd from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson Street, Willimantic. Burial will be at

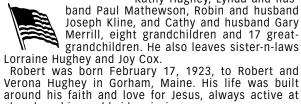
a later date to be determined by the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Coventry High School Music Boosters, 78 Ŕipley Hill Rd, Coventry, CT 06238. For an online memorial guestbook,

please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### **Hughey, Robert Keith**



Robert Keith Hughey, 98, of Cheshire, and formerly of Vernon, entered heaven on January 24, 2022. Robert was predeceased by his dear wife Marion (Cox), brother David and sister Marcia, brother-inlaw Leslie Cox, sister-in-law Shirley and her husband Joseph Livergood. He is survived by his children: Sharon Hughey, Richard and wife Kathy Hughey, Lynda and husband husband husband husband husband husband husband husband



church and in worldwide missions. Bob was a World War II United States Coast Guard

Veteran onboard the U.S.S. Cepheus. He bravely served during the Invasion of Southern France and the Invasion of Okinawa.

Bob received a B.A. in Education from Wheaton College, a Master's' degree in Education from the University of Hartford and a Sixth-Year from the University of CT. His teaching career spanned 38 years. He was head teacher at Mountain Laurel School for 25 years.

Bob demonstrated great love and dedication to Marion in her later years. He thoroughly invested in the lives of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren first by passing on his love and devotion to Jesus, but also through many wonderful activities and experiences.

experiences.
A service celebrating Bob's life will be held at Ellington Wesleyan Church, 276 Crystal Lake Road, Ellington, CT at 11:00 AM on March 5, 2022. There will be time to greet the family at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wycliffe Bible Translators at wycliffe.org/projects/Gods-word-luang or Gideons International at gideons.org/donate For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### Laverdiere, Suzanne B.



Suzanne B. Laverdiere, 99, formerly of South Windsor, died peacefully on February 9, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. She was married to Jean-Paul Laverdiere for 58 years, until he passed in 2006. Suzanne was the mother of Marc Laverdiere and his wife Glenna, Anne Norton and her husband John, and Nicole Melville and her husband Mike.

Suzanne was the grandmother of 11 grandchildren: Marc and Lisa Laverdiere, Carinne Vaillancourt, Patrice and Dan Stering, Janae and Evan Holmes, Katie and Chris Upright, Jimmy and Courtney Norton, Meghan and Jason Montano, Ryan and Becky McConville, Colin McConville, Ryan and Valerie Melville, and Chris Melville and Caitlyn Chapman. Suzanne was the great-grandmother of 13: Marc and Luc Laverdiere, Kenna and Ethan Stering, Alexander and Caroline Holmes, Auburn and Tegan Upright, Johnny Norton, Winter Montano, Colin and Chloe McConville, and Dorian Melville. Suzanne was cared for with love for almost three years by her caregiver and good friend, Winsome Leslie. Born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada on December 22, 1922, Suzanne is survived by her sister Emilie Boutin and predeceased by 15 siblings. Suzanne moved from Canada to Connecticut in 1958, where she and Jean-Paul raised their family in South Windsor and were parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Church. They retired to Florida for several years and Suzanne returned to Connecticut in 2006. The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 12noon -1:30PM and conclude with a funeral home service and celebration of life at 1:30PM with Fr. Larry Barile celebrating. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Suzanne's memory to the Manchester Area Conferences of Churches (MACC), online at www. macc-ct.org/donate (Please select Community Kitchen or Community Emergency Pantry). The mailing address is MACC Charities, P.O. Box 3804, Manchester, CT 06045-3804 and the phone number is 860-647-0440. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

#### Morse, Lawrence Bryant



Lawrence Bryant Morse, of Ivoryton, passed away after a brief illness on February 14, 2022. Husband of Betsy Bond Morse. They were married in 1959. Lawrence was born on November 29, 1938, in East Orange, NJ, the son of Cyrus B. Morse and Laura Heine Morse, formerly of South Windsor and Lawrence graduated from

Ellsworth Memorial High School, Brown University, BA, and RPI, MS. He was employed by FISERV, retiring in 1999. Prior to FISERV, he was employed with Society Savings Bank, Boston Safe Deposit and Trust, Travelers, Cigna. He was an active member of the First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational, UCC. He was a member of the church choir, many boards and committees, Chairman of the Board of Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Inc., Capella Cantorum Men's Chorus, Hilltop Four Plus, and Red Cross. He enjoyed woodworking and antique cars. He will be most remembered as the most loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters Deborah M. Ringen and her husband Alan of Westbrook, Tracey M. Lamothe and her husband Michael of Madison, and Ann M. Gamble of Ivoryton; brother John C. Morse of Newington; sister Lucinda M. Hooker and her husband Samuel of Federal Way, WA; grandchildren David, Michael (Leslie), Stephen Ringen, Alison (Brittini Demers) Lamothe, Adam (Amanda), Jennifer, Andrew Gamble; great grand daughters Leah and Madison Gamble; many nieces and nephews; and dear friends, and neighbors. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his nephew Richard Bond, sisters-in-law Linda Bond, Barbara Morse, and in-laws Richard and Cynthia Bond.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 19th at 11am in the First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational, UCC, 366 Main St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Legacy Fund of First Church, 366 Main St., Old Saybrook, or to Shoreline Soup & Pantries, Inc., PO Box 804, Essex, CT 06426. To sign the online guest book visit www.swanfuneralhomeoldsaybrook.com.

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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Howard, Jr., William

William F. "Bill" Howard, Jr., 64, beloved cousin and friend, passed away peacefully at his apartment on Friday, February 11, 2022. Born in Hartford on November 9, 1957, Bill was a lifetime resident of East Hartford. He is predeceased by his parents, Dorothy (Troiber) and William E. Howard, Sr. and his sister April (Treiber) and William F. Howard, Sr., and his sister, April Jean Howard.

Bill is survived by three first cousins, Kenneth B. Andersen of Ashland, OR, Andrew J. Garretto of South Windsor and Robert H. "Hank" Garretto of West Suffield, along with their spouses and children.

Known affectionately to many of his friends as "How", he graduated from the George J. Penney High School in 1976. Afterwards, he worked at UPS in Hartford where he stayed for over 40 years and served as a Union Steward. An avid mystery reader and lifelong Red Sox fan, Bill also enjoyed music, concerts, aviation and sailing in Long Island Sound on his 22-foot Catalina day sailer. He will be cremated, as per his wishes.

A Memorial/Remembrance Service and Celebration of Bill's life will be scheduled at a future date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. To leave a memory of Bill or to receive updated service information, please visit www.desopoeh.com.



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#### Jankowski, Barbara



Barbara Jankowski, 71, wife of Richard Jankowski of Rocky Hill, passed away February 14, 2022 in UConn John Dempsey Hospital. She was born in Krynica, Poland on January 10, 1951 and immigrated to Hartford in 1973. Barbara loved wildlife of all kinds and loved her dog Bella. She was an avid reader and enjoyed doing crossword puzzles daily.

When the weather was nice Barbara enjoyed being outdoors and fishing. Besides her husband, Richard Jankowski she leaves behind her son Alan Stanek, her niece Alicja Dunnells and her great-niece Alyssa Nadeau. A graveside service will be held on Monday February 21, 2022 at 1:00 PM at Rose Hill Memorial Park (Section 31) Rocky Hill, CT 06067. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the CT Humane Society 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111 in her memory. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com.

#### Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

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#### McKown, Douglas



Douglas G. McKown, 69, of Suffield, passed away sur-rounded by family on Friday, February 11, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford. Born April 15, 1952 in Buffalo, NY, son of Curtis and Jeanne (Haffa) McKown. He lived in Suffield for the past 25 years Suffield for the past 25 years and was employed as a Customer Account Specialist Industries

for NFI Industries in Glastonbury. Doug was an avid NASCAR fan, loved to play the lottery, go to the casino, and enjoyed vacationing in Anna Maria Island, FL. He is survived by Karen, his loving wife of 20 years, three daughters who adored him, Lynn D'Angelo and her husband, Craig of Middletown, DE, Jessica Lauver and her husband, Edward of Newark, DE, and Abigail Piner and her husband, band, James of Smyrna, NC and a step-daughter, Katie Bindas of Windsor Locks, who held a special place in his heart. He also leaves behind six grandchildren, Justin, Lauren, and Bradley D'Angelo, Jacob, Ashley, and Liliana Piner; two sisters, Cynthia Villena and her husband, Nestor of Hilton Head, SC; Andrea Siebold and her husband, Bruce of Hilton Head, SC; and a brother, Richard McKown and his wife, Julie of Rochester, NY. Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. The family has entrusted Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home with his care. To leave on-line condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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#### Ramm, Anita Fay



Anita Fay Ramm passed away peacefully under hospice care in Mansfield on the morning on February 14,

De, as she was known to all her friends and family, was born in Vernon on May 28, 1928, to Murray and Hazel (Hewes) Fay. She graduated from Hall High School in West

Connecticut at Storrs and did graduate work at both UConn and Eastern Connecticut State University. She married Henry H. Ramm (who predeceased her in 1988) and was a resident of Columbia for more than fifty years, leaving only for a short while to move with Pratt & Whitney to Belgium and then to Manchester. De was very active in the Town of Columbia. She was one of the founders of the Columbia Cooperative Kindergarten where she also taught for several years before teaching at the Horace Porter School. In addition, De served on the Board of Directors of the Saxton B. Little Library and on the Board of the Columbia Historic

Little Library and on the Board of the Columbia Historic Society. She was the first official Town Historian and served in that capacity for many years while building a fine archive of Columbia historical items and documents. With others, De also researched and authored

"The Story of Columbia Continues... 1954-1992".
Henry and De had a family of three sons. Stephen
Hewes Ramm, their eldest, lives in Columbia as does their youngest Christopher Hewes Ramm (married to Patrice Bertora Ramm). Son Henry David Ramm lives in Houston (married to Angela Haraka Ramm). De was a terrific grandmother to Todd, Lindsay (husband Elliot Hayden, South Glastonbury), Kyle (wife Marie Welles Ramm, Columbia), Dylan and Marley and was blessed with great grandchildren Grace, Conor and Henry. She also leaves a niece, Nancy Fredericks, and a nephew, Mark Brett. De will be greatly missed by all

Per her wishes, De will be cremated, and her ashes scattered along side those of her late husband's. A memorial service will be conducted at a later date in Columbia. The family asks that donations in De's memory be directed to the Henry H. Ramm Memorial Fund at Saxton B. Little Library in Columbia. For an online memorial guestbook please visit www.potterfu-

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#### Pensiero, Steven J.



Steven J. Pensiero, 61, of South Windsor and formerly of Glastonbury, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, February 13, 2022. He was a kind and gentle husband to his wife and best friend, Kerrie (Boone) Pensiero for twenty-four years. One of his greatest accomplishments was being a father to his cherished son

Rudy & daughter Emma. He was their hero and biggest cheerleader. Always with his gentle guidance and ever present humor in all he did. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his brothers Michael Pensiero and his wife Marina of MD, Paul Pensiero and his wife Linda of FL and several MD, Paul Pensiero and his wife Linda of FL and several nieces and nephews. Steven was also fortunate to have a great number of friends and acquaintances who adored him. His love of life, laughter and his general human kindness will be forever missed. Born in Bloomfield, Steven was the son of the late Rudy and Mary (Carpino) Pensiero. He was a long time Glastonbury resident, moving to South Windsor three years ago. Steve owned and operated STP Bindery for 35 years. He was loved and respected by many of his employees, customers and colleagues. His ability to genuinely connect with another human being is what endeared him to all. A Celebration of his life will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Mulryan Funeral Home. February 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends may call on Thursday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

MULRYAN

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#### Mahon, Kenneth W.



Retired Brig. General Kenneth W. Mahon, Connecticut Air National Guard, of Windsor, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2022, at the age of 76, at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT. He was born in Brooklyn NV on Bosombor 12 Brooklyn, NY, on December 12, 1945, son of the late William and Dorothy (Miller) Mahon. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Janet (Yeager) Mahon; his children, Elizabeth Couluris

and her husband John, William Mahon and his wife Melissa, and Jeffrey Mahon; his grandchildren, Vitige Mahon, Weston Mahon, and Austin Couluris; his sister, Patricia Wachtler; and his cousin, Pamela Chiarolanza. A graduate of Saint John's University, Ken discovered early in life that he had a passion for flying. He received his commission in the U.S. Navy in 1967, where he served as a Navigator Instructor for Antarctic missions. He then joined the Connecticut Air Guard in 1973 and upon completion of advanced aviation training became a fighter pilot in 1974.

From 1975 to 1995 Ken served in a number of positions at the Guard until he was named Commander and appointed Chief of Staff, Connecticut Air National Guard. He was promoted to Brigadier General and federally recognized on March 14, 1996. He received the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Connecticut Medal of Merit, to name a few. Flying numerous types of tactical aircraft, Ken ended his military flying career in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and retired in 1997.

From 1981 to 2007 Ken was also the corporate aviation manager and chief pilot for The Travelers/Citigroup operations in Connecticut and White Plains, NY. Among other responsibilities, he coordinated flights for corporate business meetings to destinations worldwide. As chief pilot, he flew many international flights for the company CEO and corporate executive staff.

Ken was a dedicated family man, working hard his entire life to ensure his children had every opportunity to succeed. He loved the outdoors, especially scenic drives in the countryside. In the later years, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren in CT or Florida and traveling on various cruises. Even after a suffering

and traveling on various cruises. Even after a suffering a major stroke eight years ago, Ken always maintained a positive attitude and a fighting spirit. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. His family will receive friends and relatives on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Carmon Poquonock Funeral Home, 1816 Poquonock Ave, Windsor, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 AM at Saint Joseph Church, 1747 Poquonock Ave, Windsor. Burial with military honors will follow at Windsor Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Windsor. To express condolences online go to www.carmonfu-

neralhome.com **CARMON** 

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#### **Stephenson, Alexander**



Alexander Stephenson, 31, passed away peacefully at his home in Kensington, Connecticut on February 8th, 2022. He was born March 30, 1990, in Gelnhausen, Germany and is the beloved son of Eileen Kearney-Stephenson and the late Capt. Adam Brandon Stephenson.

Alex valued and cherished family and his many lifelong school friends, both students and faculty. His family would like to thank each one of them for making a difference in his life. A special thank you to Donna Hunter, his preschool teacher, and Sally Grady his high school social worker, for their patience, guidance and compassion they showed Alex throughout his school years. In addition, we extend a special thanks to his loyal friend, Tara Davis and her daughter, Annabelle (New Britain) for their love, laughs and support over the last few years.

Though Alex was challenged with Autism Spectrum Disorder, his accomplishments were many. He graduated Berlin High School, attended Lincoln College of New England where he majored in Mortuary Science and participated in the Cosmetology Programs at Maranello Cosmetology School and the Academy Di Cappelli

Alex had a beautiful personality and charm all his own. His sense of humor was appreciated by all and will live on with his memory. He also had a very creative side to him. Alex loved cooking, reading, music, fencing and mastering his talents in Mortuary Science and Cosmetology. His smile and very presence will be missed! missed!

He is survived by his loving Mother, Eileen Kearney, who resides in Kensington, Connecticut; Shirley and Brandon Stephenson, who reside in Georgia (his paternal grandparents) and several aunts, uncles and cousins he adored and his maternal aunts, Mary Anne and Gary Spagnoli, Jean and Michael Guyader, Beverly Bryda and Martin Kearney (Meriden) and Sharon and Altan Denizkurt (Amston) and several cousins and Maddie its newest member. He is predeceased by his Father, Adam Stephenson, his godfather, Thomas Kearney (Meriden) and his maternal grandparents, Eileen and Thomas Kearney of Montvale, NJ.

The funeral will be held on Saturday, February 19th at 11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Church, 461 Alling Street, Berlin, Connecticut. The burial will be private.

Donations can be made to The Belin Peck Memorial Library. The Friends of Berlin Animal Control or Berea Baptist Church Cemetery fund, 402 Berea Church Rd, Commerce, GA 30530.

To share memories and condolences with the family please visit www.berlinmemorialfuneralhome.com Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

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**In Loving Memory Of** STANLEY J. 'FR. STAN' NADOLNY



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# CONNECTICUT

# Blumenthal helps forge Kids Online Safety Act

Proposal a step toward protecting young people from 'destructive content, addictive dark places'

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

Senators from both sides of the aisle came together Wednesday to propose a bill that aims to address the corrosive effects of social media on children's mental health.

Led by U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, and Marsha Blackburn, a Republican from Tennessee, the measure would give parents of children under 16 new tools to restrict screen time and protect privacy. Notably the measure would provide parents and children with the ability to limit or ban some content. It would also allow users to opt out of features, such as auto play, that are designed to keep people hooked on social media platforms, and rewards for spending time on a site.

The Kids Online Safety Act is the product of hours of hearings held by the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety and Data Security, which is led by Blumenthal.

'What we've heard ... at our hearings and from direct talks with parents are harrowing, haunting stories of heartbreaking loss, destructive content to children, addictive dark places that are the result of big tech driving toxic content at kids using black box algorithms that are little understood by parents or children," Blumenthal said at a press conference Wednesday outlining the legislation.

"What we're doing in this bill is empowering those children and their parents to take back control and ... power over their lives online," he said.

At a hearing before the subcommittee in December, an executive with Instagram which, like Facebook, is owned

**Turn to Safety,** Page 2



Blackburn on Wednesday unveiled the Kids Online Safety Act. SAMUEL CORUM/GETTY

# **Foxwoods** thinks big for 30-year anniversary

Resort to add water park, high-stakes bingo hall

**By Christopher Arnott** Hartford Courant

HARTFORD - Foxwoods Resort Casino is marking its 30th anniversary by looking to the future, announcing a slew of expansion plans that include a Great Wolf Lodge water-park attraction, a bingo hall and an

"It's all part of our evolution, transforming us from a place known for gaming to a fully integrated family resort," said Foxwoods President/CEO Jason Guvot. "It's big news for the tribe, big news for Connecticut and big news for the North-

The plans square with "the original vision of the tribe, which was to bring the outdoors inside," Guyot said.

The reaction to the Tuesday announcement of the addition of the Great Wolf Lodge water park, expected to open in 2024, has been overwhelmingly positive, with thousands of comments on social media. he said.

Great Wolf Lodge is a chain of indoor water parks and family resorts, offering pools and water slides as well as crafts and dance parties and other family activities. There are currently around 20 Great Wolf Lodges in North America. Currently the closest one to Connecticut is in Fitchburg,

Guyot envisions a more family-friendly Foxwoods, where "one day the husband can go play golf while the wife brings the kids to the water park, and the next day he takes care of the kids while she can go to

Turn to Foxwoods, Page 2

## Lamont could seek extension for nursing home protections

By Christopher Keating Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — On the day after his emergency powers expired, Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday that he would go back to the legislature to seek a time extension for nursing home protections if the pandemic worsens.

Since Lamont can no longer make the order himself, the Democratic-controlled legislature voted in recent days to continue requiring visitors to nursing homes to be vaccinated or take a COVID-19 test before being allowed into the homes.

But that provision is scheduled to end on March 15, raising questions about the

"I think it could have been longer or at least a little more flexibility," Lamont said

Turn to Protections, Page 2



Illustrations of a planned apartment complex on the site of the former Showcase Cinemas on Silver Lane in East Hartford. JASKO

# East Hartford OKs tax break for apartments

Latest municipality to approve millions for large complex

**By Don Stacom** Hartford Courant

East Hartford on Tuesday approved tax abatements worth more than \$15 million for a massive apartment complex proposed for the long-vacant Showcase Cinemas site, the latest in a series of municipal tax incentives for developers around central Connecticut.

Newington earlier this month approved abatements worth \$11 million for the company planning apartments and retail development on the former Eversource property, and New Britain last year provided about \$7.5 million over 26 years for The Brit, an apartment complex proposed for a blighted downtown property.

In each case, the agreements drew questions and even opposition from a few local leaders, but they ultimately were approved.

Proponents in all three communities succeeded by focusing on two points: The projects will produce more tax revenue even with the incentives, and they're also projected to spur more development nearby.

"I'm a pragmatic guy. I play cards based on the cards that are deal to me," East Hartford Mayor Michael Walsh said Wednes-

"Showcase Cinemas was a blighted, non-functioning property for 15 years. Do you prefer that to an amenity-rich apartment complex that will pay \$750,000-plus a year, pay \$1 million



in (building) permits, and bring \$15 million of disposable income to support businesses on Silver Lane?," Walsh asked.

East Hartford's council initially was divided last fall when a partnership of Jasko Development and Zelman Real Estate sought to buy the old movie theatre property for \$1. The developers plan 360 market-rate apartments, and Walsh and others see that as transformational for the entire Silver Lane corridor.

This week, council member Travis Simpson questioned what it says about East Hartford's tax rate that the project is only economically feasible if developers get a break from the usual

But on Tuesday night, the council unanimously approved a 27-year agreement that phases in property taxes on the

Turn to Apartments, Page 2

## Avelo adds 4 nonstop flights from Tweed-New Haven



Avelo Airlines, which launched service from Tweed-New Haven Airport in November, is adding four more nonstop routes. KENNETH R. GOSSELIN/HARTFORD COURANT

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By Kenneth R. Gosselin Hartford Courant

**Low-cost Avelo Airlines** the start-up that established its East Coast hub at Tweed-New Haven Airport last year - announced Wednesday it is pushing ahead with an aggressive expansion at the airport, adding four more nonstop routes this spring.

Avelo will begin offer-

ing nonstop service to two destinations in South Carolina — Myrtle Beach and Charleston — plus Nashville and Savannah, beginning May 5.

Introductory, one-way fares on the four new routes start at \$49, the airline said, but the lowest fares are on a limited number of flights and seats. There are also extra fees for priority seating, checked bags, carry-on

overhead bags and bringing a pet into the cabin. The introductory fares must be booked by March 2.

With the four, new nonstop destinations from Tweed, Avelo will offer service to 10 airports, the first six all in Florida.

"Our customers are telling us they would love for Avelo to fly to more places

Turn to Avelo, Page 2



# **Hartford Public** Library security guard assaulted

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A security guard at the downtown Hartford Public Library was assaulted Wednesday afternoon after telling a man he had to leave the building, police and the library president said.

"He was just trying to get someone to leave and got punched in the face," police spokesman Lt. Aaron Boisvert said.

The man was taken to the hospital for treatment, but was not badly hurt, Boisvert said. Police are investigating, he said.

"We are all deeply saddened and distressed that one of our valued

front-line employees was assaulted earlier today while performing his duties as a safety officer," library President Bridget Quinn wrote in a release. We are working with our colleagues at the Hartford Police Department to identify the person or persons

The incident happened at about 12:30 p.m. and the downtown library was closed soon after for the rest of the day "out of an abundance of caution and to aid the Hartford Police Department in their investigation." Quinn wrote.

responsible."

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at ileavenworth@ courant.com.



An illustration of a planned apartment complex on the site of the former Showcase Cinemas on Silver Lane in East Hartford. JASKO DEVELOPMENT

#### **Apartments**

from Page 1

complex. The deal starts with taxes set at about \$750,000 in the first year after construction, roughly \$1.3 million less than what thev'd be at full value.

The incentive is phased out in 2% increments through 2052, when the project will be taxed on the full assessment.

Avner Krohn, principal

**Protections** 

back to the legislature."

scariest time of my life."

peaked in April 2020 before

falling back. Since February

2021, the deaths have been relatively flat, according to

the public health depart-

ment. While cases in the

homes spiked back up in

December 2021 and Janu-

ary 2022, the death rate did

not spike in a correspond-

ing fashion as residents had been vaccinated and

Mairead Painter, the state's

long-term care ombuds-

man, said the situation has

changed sharply from the

days of high infection rates

when many visitors were

blocked from seeing their

residents have had their

booster," Painter said. "I

haven't had a visitation

improved, the state's public

health commissioner, Dr.

Manisha Juthani, said the

state suffered tough times

While the numbers have

"The majority of our

relatives in the homes.

complaint" in months.

in 2020.

from Page 1

ant.

in Jasko Development, said such agreements are good for communities, particularly less-affluent ones with older housing, relatively low rents, high tax rates and blighted property.

"It's not an 'either or,' it's not like a smorgasbord. If there's no tax deal, there's no development, period," Krohn said. "In towns with a high mill rate, you won't see multiple-family ground-up development without that. You just cannot get marketrate development without some way to make the project viable. The numbers just wouldn't work."

After incentives, modern new housing complexes particularly dense ones with three and four stories — will pay far more than what the previous uses provided, Krohn said.

"In East Hartford, the town will receive north of \$750.000 even with the tax deal, and that's on a property that's paying nothing now,"

Krohn said.

In Newington, Assessor Steve Kosofsky said the 20-year tax abatement for a large development on the former Eversource property along the Berlin Turnpike will provide substantial new revenue for the town.

"In the first three years, the taxes will exceed what the town would have gotten," he said.

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com.

#### **Foxwoods**

from Page 1

Foxwoods will be leasing 15 acres of land to Great Wolf to create what will be called The Great Wolf Lodge at Mashantucket. Guyot says it will be be similar to the most recently built Great Wolf Lodges, including one under construction in Maryland.

Foxwoods has been in talks with the Chicago-based Great Wolf Lodge company for years, he said.

"It's a huge negotiation. It's been part of our master plan. The tribe has been very close with Great Wolf, and as the possibility of doing this increased, we started to shoot for the 30th anniversary as a target."

Also in the cards: a High Stakes Bingo Hall scheduled to open this spring. Foxwoods already had one of the largest bingo halls in the world. This one is not larger, Guyot said, but "an upgrade, with the latest technology."

The previous bingo space is being turned into the 75,000 square foot Rainmaker Expo Center, increasing the number of large events Foxwoods can

hold. The center, which can accommodate 3,500 seats or a crowd of 4,000 without seats, will join two existing performance spaces at the complex: the 4,000-seat Premier Theater and the 1500-seat Great Cedar Showroom.

Foxwoods' main entrance will also be renovated as part of the overall changes.

#### **Anniversary** celebrations

For this week's anniversary celebrations the casino, which opened on Feb. 15, 1992, is giving away \$30,000 a day through Feb. 21 to Foxwoods Rewards members who choose the right time to swipe their Rewards card at one of the promotions kiosks. Other prizes can also be won, including tickets to comedy shows by Jo Koy and Jim Norton. In total, Foxwoods is giving away \$200,000 in money and

Foxwoods is also donating \$30,000 to a different charity every month, starting this month with a donation to United Way of Southeastern Connecticut.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@ courant.com.



Gov. Ned Lamont, left, talks with Jeanne Peters, 95, during a visit to The Reservoir nursing home, after she was given the first COVID-19 vaccination Dec. 18, 2020, in West Hartford. STEPHEN DUNN/AP

"When this pandemic started two years ago, we didn't have the tools in the beginning because we didn't really know what the virus was," Juthani told reporters. "Nursing homes were, unfortunately, hit hard in the beginning - being close to New York, having the virus come up the I-95 corridor.... The deaths have gone down dramatically in patients living in long-term care here in the state of Connecticut. This is a remarkable story

about what teamwork does." The former public health commissioner, Dr. Deidre S. Gifford, said the state has battled constantly to try to contain the spread of the virus. Overall, more than 10,000 people have died statewide of various ages, including in the nursing homes.

"It has been a grueling couple of years," Gifford said. "We were one of the first states to sign up for the long-term care vaccination program. We were ahead of the federal government in requiring nursing home staff to be tested."

But Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford, who also works as an eldercare attorney, said the state still has problems with the ongoing pandemic.

"Based on the latest data, Connecticut nursing home populations have a COVID-19 case rate four times higher than the general population, and a death rate 20 times higher," Kelly said. "I hope the numbers [to be released Thursday] will look better, but the latest numbers we have demand greater attention to the presence of COVID-19 in our nursing homes, not less. Case data for the general population is released on

a daily basis, but the same information for those most vulnerable to the virus in our nursing homes is delayed by two weeks at a time. This delay is not reasonable."

Kelly is seeking the release of daily data from the nursing homes on pandemic cases. But the state's public health department says the information should be

released every two weeks. "Having this amount of time between data reports allows us to identify trends in the data," the department said in response to Kelly. "These trends are what ultimately guide our decision making, recognizing that day-to-day differences in data do not accurately represent the course of this virus."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@ courant.com.



The mood was festive Tuesday at Foxwoods Resort Casino as officials marked its 30th anniversary. The casino opened Feb. 15, 1992. FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO

#### Avelo

from Page 1 beyond Florida," Andrew Levy,

Avelo's chairman and chief executive, said, in a release. "These four routes show that we are listening." When Avelo launched it first flights from Tweed in November,

Levy said it was likely Avelo would

expand its service from Tweed

outside of Florida. The existing Florida destinations are: Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Orlando, Sarasota/Braden-

ton, Tampa and West Palm Beach. According to Avelo's website, the fees the airline has been charging have risen since first launching service at Tweed. For instance, a carry-on bag has gone from \$35 to \$40, while a first checked bag has increased from \$30 to \$35. Those fees are when "add-ons" are done while booking online. The fees are higher when those preferences at booked at the airport.

The flights to Myrtle Beach are initially scheduled to take off every day, except Wednesday and service to Charleston, each day except Monday and Wednesday. Service to Savannah and Nash-

ville will be available Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Avelo launched its first flights from Tweed as the airport embarks on a planned \$100 million expansion of the airport

Avelo service is on single-class, 147-seat Boeing Next-Generation 737-700 aircraft.

a new terminal.

in the next few years that includes

"Tweed-New Haven Airport continues to be a growing destination, and the addition of these flights is welcomed news as more travelers recognize how convenient, quick and easy it is to fly out of this airport," Gov. Ned Lamont said in a release.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.



Avelo Airlines will now offer nonstop flights to Myrtle Beach and Charleston, both in South Carolina, plus Savannah, Georgia, and Nashville, Tennessee, from Tweed-New Haven Airport. KENNETH R. GOSSELIN/HARTFORD COURANT

#### Safety from Page 1

by Meta - proposed a number of its own solutions including an industry panel to enforce safety standards. Those ideas were roundly rejected by lawmakers.

"We can no longer count on social media platforms to police or monitor themselves or protect children," said Blumenthal. "They've betrayed that trust. In fact, they've been in denial about the problems that they have created."

The bill, crafted by Blumenthal and Blackburn, empowers the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to hold the

companies accountable. In October the Senate panel heard testimony from Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, who

released thousands of internal documents to government regulators and Wall Street Journal reporters showing that the company knew about the damage its projects, primarily Instagram, inflict on adolescent mental health. Blackburn and Blumen-

thal say Instagram's sophisticated algorithms can exploit teen insecurities and trigger disordered eating, especially among young girls, as well as promote bullying and other harmful behaviors.

"We are going to be able, in this legislation, to create some accountability mechanisms," said Blackburn. "We are going to be able to get into these black box algorithms. This will empower

families." A spokesperson for Meta could not be reached for comment.

#### CONNECTICUT

# Simsbury baker competing on Food Network show

**By Susan Dunne** Hartford Courant

Kim Wood of Simsbury, who owns the French bakery Le Bánh Patisserie and plans to expand to a storefront in March, will appear on this season's "Spring Baking Championship." The show will have its season premiere Feb. 28 on the Food Network.

On the show, 12 bakers from around the country create seasonally inspired confections. One baker is eliminated on each show, and the four final bakers compete against each other in the final challenge. The winner gets \$25,000.

Wood said the network reached out to her by a message on Instagram, asking if she was interested in a cooking competition. At first, she didn't fully understand the message.

"I was surprised and in shock when I got the message. I was worried, too. The message was random and vague. They don't write out 'Food Network' or 'baking championship.' They're cautious. I don't know why I responded back. But since then it's been a whirlwind," she said.

After many interviews, she was passed over for "Holiday Baking Championship." Then another round of interviews started for "Spring Baking Championship." "Then I got a phone call that I was chosen. What great news," she said.

The show was filmed last summer in Tennessee.

Wood, a native of Vietnam, was raised in Fort Worth, Texas. She grew up loving Food

"As immigrants, we didn't have a lot of money. We had the typical TV channels. Whenever I went somewhere that had Food Network, I'd turn it on and glue myself in front of it," she said. "I'd watch anything on that channel, especially the competitions. It's mind-boggling to be able to compete on

Wood got a business degree at University of Oklahoma. then followed her passion to The Art Institute of Houston's baking and pastry program. She moved to Connecticut when her husband got a job

She worked for a while here, too, then became a stay-athome mom. But her passion called her back.

She founded Le Bánh in January 2020, at commercial kitchens in Hartford, then in Canton. She specializes in elegantly decorated cakes, tarts, cookies and cannelés Bordelais, a rum-vanilla pastry



Pastry Chef Kim Wood of Simsbury is competing in the Food Network's competition show "Spring Baking Championship." ROB PRYCE/FOOD NETWORK



with a caramelized crust and a custard center.

"In Vietnam, all of our food is influenced by French cuisine, especially desserts. Vietnamese desserts are not overly sweet. French is the same. They're a balance of flavor and texture and fresh ingredients," she said.

Hers was a delivery-only business model, no foot traffic. That helped her when March 2020 came. Unlike the vast majority of people in the food industry, the coronavirus pandemic led to a period of success.

"I had built up the support of the community by the time COVID hit. The community stood behind me. My business boomed," she said.

In March, Wood plans to open her first storefront at 542



Kim Wood of Simsbury makes French pastries at Le Bánh Patisserie. CLAUDIA CARBALLO PHOTOS/LE BÁNH

Hopmeadow St. in Simsbury. The store was occupied by a catering company that moved to another location, so the kitchen is already built out. "I just have to touch it up and put a personal touch to it," she said.

She hopes to soft-open by March 5 and have a watch party in the shop. "I am actually cringing, but I will tune in," she said.

"Spring Baking Championship: Everything's Coming up Floral" will debut on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m., on Food Network and discovery+. The series premiere is a two-hour episode. It will be repeated four hours later at midnight.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

## **Contracting watchdogs** say Lamont wants to cut enforcement powers

By Keith M. Phaneuf

State contracting watchdog officials say they would lose their power to suspend improper or illegal procurements under Gov. Ned Lamont's latest budget proposal.

And while key lawmakers hope for a compromise between the administration and the State Contracting Standards Board, an olive branch from the governor — beefing up the state auditors of public accounts — isn't likely to solve the dispute.

The budget revisions Lamont proposed on Feb. 9 are "a slick way of basically taking away what the core purpose of the contracting standards board was," Lawrence Fox, a West Hartford Democrat and board chairman, told the CT Mirror this week. "They're saying to us, 'You don't basically investigate anything any more."

■ Do state auditors make contract watchdogs unnecessary?

What Lamont specifically proposed to legislators was budget policy language that would strip the board's enforcement powers. The watchdog group, which has lacked a full contingent of support staff throughout its 14-year history — and wouldn't receive funds to hire any under the governor's proposal — already relies heavily on free work by its volunteer board to get its job done.

The administration has said on several occasions that it believes the contracting standards board largely duplicates watchdog efforts already performed by other agencies.

Some officials also have criticized the contracting board over the years as an ally of labor unions trying to block privatization of state services a charge Fox denies.

"We look at [a contract] on its merits and based upon the law," Fox said. "We just follow what the statute says."

Fox added that about two-thirds of the contracting group's 13-member board have no ties to organized labor.

But Lamont says the group still should continue its work. And if its research raises concerns, it should refer them to the state auditors, a longstanding agency within the Legislative Branch that periodically reviews the finances and practices of most agencies, quasi-public entities and certain other state programs. The auditors' office is overseen by one Democrat and one Republican — both appointed by the General Assembly.

"Our state's auditors are qualified people who conduct oversight over state agencies on behalf of the people of the state while reviewing procurement and contracting process in a non-partisan way," said Lamont spokesman Anthony Anthony. The governor's new budget includes funding to add three more auditors to that office to help accommodate new referrals.

But while there are some similarities between the contracting board and the auditors' office, they aren't perfect parallels.

The auditors have almost no enforcement authority. Their chief power rests only in shining public light on state agencies. Governors and legislators can — and on many occasions have — disregarded the conclusions of auditors when they report practices that don't conform to proper procedure.

The contracting standards board, by comparison, has authority to suspend a procurement process underway if it concludes the department or agency in question isn't in full compliance with state rules.

That authority, and the board itself the linchpin in the landmark "Clean Contracting" system created in 2007 by the Democrat-controlled legislature and Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell — was Connecticut's response to the contracting scandals that drove Republican Gov. John G. Rowland from office amid an impeachment inquiry in July 2004. Rowland later served 10 months in federal prison after admitting he accepted about \$100,000 in gifts from state contractors and his staff.

Legislators and Rell envisioned a board that would ask three key questions before major contracts were executed: Was the state purchasing quality goods or services? Was the planned purchase cost-efficient, both in the short-term and over the long haul? And was the process transparent and in compliance with state rules? ■ Democratic governors weaken

watchdog, but won't repeal it Not long after the board's creation, though, Connecticut would fall into the Great Recession, and legislators and Rell would siphon away nearly all resources, leaving the volunteer stan-

dards board with no staff.

An executive director would eventually be hired, but once the recession had ended, Democrats would take control of the governor's office — first Dannel P. Malloy, who served from 2011 through 2018, and then Lamont from 2019 to the present.

Neither has shown much need for the contracting board, which has remained fiscally shackled for nearly a decade and a half. But neither would either risk the political backlash of trying outright to repeal the centerpiece of Connecticut's response to Rowland administration corruption.

Malloy tried in his first six months to suspend contracting board operations for two years so he could more easily privatize state services and cut operating costs.

Lamont, who also has made no secret of his plans to privatize more state services as veteran government employees retire over the next few years, offered a bill in 2019 to make it easier to launch public-private

The legislature killed Lamont's proposal, though, after then-AFL-CIO President Salvatore Luciano called it "an alarming attempt to return us to the shadowy Rowland years."

The two-year budget that legisla-

tors and Lamont adopted last June included just under \$700,000 per year for the contracting board — the same level the board was supposed to have when it was launched 14 years ago. That included \$450,000 in each year to fund additional positions. But shortly after that was passed,

legislative leaders, at the request of the Lamont administration, included a provision in a subsequent budget policy bill that barred the board from spending \$450,000 of its annual allot-

The budget revisions Lamont proposed last week for the fiscal year that begins July 1 make no changes to that funding roadblock.

Fox said those funds were to create five new positions to support Executive Director David Guay, whose only assistance currently comes from a college intern. And Guay has since announced his plans to retire in the second half of 2022.

#### ■ Labor: FBI probe shows importance of contract transparency

Lamont and the contracting board have bumped heads since 2019, when the latter took an interest in the Connecticut Port Authority's efforts to enhance the state pier in New London. The authority wants to make the pier an optimal staging point to help Eversource and its Denmark-based partner, Ørsted North America, develop an off-shore wind-to-energy project ultimately capable of generating 4,000 megawatt hours of electricity.

The contracting board specifically focused on more than \$700,000 in fees paid in 2018 to Seabury Capital Group to help with search for a pier operator. The Day of New London first reported that those payments included a \$523,000 "success" or reward fee – and that this happened three months after Henry Juan III of Greenwich, who was a managing director with Seabury, resigned from the authority board.

The contracting board wrapped an investigation earlier this month, concluding those "success fees" were eerily similar to the "finder's fees" scandal that sent a former state Treasurer Paul Silvester to prison in 2001.

The General Assembly banned "finder's fees" after Silvester admitted he had accepted kickbacks in exchange for steering investment of state-controlled pension funds.

The CT Mirror reported earlier this month that the FBI is investigating projects related for Lamont's former deputy budget director. Kosta Diamantis, including the state-financed reconstruction of the New London pier and some school construction work.

Given that climate, labor leaders asked Tuesday, why wouldn't the administration embrace the contracting watchdog?

Connecticut AFL-CIO President Ed Hawthorne said the governor's budget proposal "is like providing enough funding for a school so you can hire a principal, but not enough for teachers. It's clearly set up to fail."

"What he's doing this year is completely insidious," said Travis Woodward, president of CSEA-SEIU, Local 2001, which represents about 4,000 state employees ranging from transportation planners, architects and engineers to information technology specialists and some Department of Education staff.

The bargaining unit has long been one of the most ardent supporters of the contracting board's mission.

"The board's doing great work, and now you want to cap them off at the knees?" Woodward added.

Leaders of the legislature's Appropriations and Transportation committees said last summer it was a mistake to dangle but not deliver resources for the contracting board and predicted many legislators would look to correct that error in the 2022 session.

Democratic Sens. Julie Kushner of Danbury and Mae Flexer of Windham, who lead the Labor & Public Employees and Government Administration & Elections committees, respectively, said Tuesday they hope all sides can find common ground.

But Kushner and Flexer also said they believe Connecticut taxpayers would be better served with a fullystaffed and empowered contracting watchdog. "If this board had been allowed to

fully function" since its enactment in 2007, Flexer said. "It would have done nothing but build the confidence of Connecticut residents over our state contracting process."

## Warrant details what led to fight at Glastonbury school board meeting

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A Glastonbury school board member and a resident who spoke at a volatile public hearing on the high school's former Native American mascot exchanged vulgarities just before a brief fight that landed the board member on the floor of the high school auditorium, according to arrest warrants obtained Wednesday.

Police recently arrested board member Monte "Ray" McFall, 57, and Mark Finocchiaro, 53, each on a charge of second-degree breach of peace.

The ruckus happened at a contentious Dec. 14 meeting centered on a petition to return Glastonbury High School's original mascot, the Tomahawks. The board had previously voted to drop the name in favor of the Glastonbury Guardians.

Board rules limited speakers at the public hearing to three minutes. Before Finocchiaro spoke, resident Laura Cahill said Native Americans "do not feel honored" by the misappropriation of their culture. and Jill Durall, who said her grandparents were Cherokee, told the crowd there was nothing offensive about the word, "Tomahawk," — "unless you are searching for a grievance," according to an audio recording of the meeting.

Finocchiaro began by shouting his name into the microphone, then saying, "Sorry that was so loud." He gave his address, but said he would probably "get doxed by the lunatics you're running out of this school" and his house likely would be egged.

When he heard Finocchiaro

begin to speak and "evaluated his body language," school resource Officer Jason Trudeau wrote in the arrest warrant affidavit, he moved nearer, "to limit my reaction time if needed."

Finocchiaro spoke about the rich history of Native Americans in Glastonbury, how arrowheads were found on a local farm and how his daughter got an A on a school project on the subject. He was talking about archaeologists from UConn inspecting ancient fire pits in town when both board Chairman Douglas Foyle and McFall, who was in charge of the audible timer, told him his time was up.

"No, I'm not done!" Finocchiaro shouted.

After being told by the board members that he was making a spectacle of himself and was not paying attention, Finocchiaro continued yelling, according to the audio recording, shouting at one point, "You're not paying attention! You're a (double expletive)."

Fovle said Wednesday, "With Mr. Finocchiaro, there was lots of cross-talk with both Ray and I saying different things. Initially, Ray would have told him his time was up. My recollection is that I said very little other than to tell him his time was up as a follow-up, tell his wife that she couldn't yield her time to him and then try to recognize the other speaker at the other podium."

Police and the district's security director determined that Finocchiaro should be watched, but removing him from the auditorium "might cause further problems as the crowd seemed to be a bit volatile."

Tensions remained high

during a recess. Referring to Finocchiaro, McFall said, "I'm going to tear that guy's (expletive) lips off," the warrant says. Toward the end of the break, McFall walked into the crowd, telling police he planned to speak to a town council member. Passing Finocchiaro, McFall asked if he had called him a vulgar name during the hearing, the warrant says.

Face to face, the two exchanged angry words in the aisle as Finocchiaro stood against a bolted down auditorium seat. After McFall said, "I'm right here," Finocchiaro leaned into the side of McFall's face and referred to him with a vulgarity synonymous with "coward," the warrant says.

"Ray then slowly pushes Mark backwards, keeping his hands planted on his chest," the warrant says. "Mark was being held up against the fixed chair and the top half of his body was leaned backwards due to the push.

"Mark clearly looks surprised and that is when Mark punched Ray in the face using his right hand," the warrant says. "It should be noted that at the time Mark struck Ray in the face, Ray still had his hands on him, pushing him back."

McFall was contrite during an interview, police said, saying he should have backed off and handled the situation differently. Police said they tried, but could not get a statement from Finocchiaro. McFall is set to appear in Manchester Superior Court on March 10; Finocchiaro is to appear on March 11.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@ courant.com.

Everyone Is Invited To A

# VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0088-0196 & 0088-0197

Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04247 carrying High Street and B&M Railroad & Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04246 carrying Washington Street over Route 72 in the City of New Britain

Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Thursday, February 24, 2022
The meeting will be live streamed via: Microsoft Teams Live Event

and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage: https://portal.ct.gov/DOTNewBritain88-196-7

The Virtual Public Information Meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Alvaro Garcia Jr., P.E. by email at alvaro.garcia@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-3353, allow one week for processing and delivery.

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling 1-888-566-5916 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 9977843. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library

Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at **DOTProject88-196-7@ct.gov** Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111, please reference the project in your voicemail

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.



#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION Town of Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 75-86, effective May 8, 1975, notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals has rendered decisions on the following appeals heard at their Regular Meeting held on February 9, 2022. These decisions have been filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Old Saybrook, Town Hall

21/22-13C Heidi S. Pascucci, seeks a variance of Par 10.7-1/10.7-2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 24.5.1 (street line setback/25' required/14.3' proposed); Par 25.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/9.2' proposed); and 24.6.1 (building structure coverage/20% allowed/24.2% proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 104 s.f. dormer additions, increased building insulation and reconfigured entryway at 33 Hartlands Drive, Map 1/Lot 50, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone. GRANTED/CAM APPROVED

21/22-14C Bridgetax Associates, LLC seeks a variance of Par 10.8.2 & 10.8.3 (non-conforming lot size/12,500 s.f. required/5,393 s.f. proposed); Par 24.5.1 (street line setback/25' required/14.7' to house and 12.5' to deck proposed); and Par 24.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/3.5' to north and 12.6' to south proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 1,530 s.f. house and 124 s.f. in decks at 10 Bliss Street, Map 12/ Lot 103, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone, AE 12 Flood Zone.

21/22-15 250 Middlesex Tpke, LLC seeks a variance of Par 10.7.1 & 10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 34.6.3 (side yard setback/20 required/9' proposed); of the Zoning Regulations to permit the constructions of a 36 s.f enclosed entry area and 370 s.f. covered porch to an existing building for proposed conversion into an office/retail building. 250 Middlesex Turnpike, Assessor's Map 52, Lot 94, Gateway Business B-4 District. Applicant: 250 Middlesex Turnpike, LLC. Agent: Attorney Marjorie Shansky GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

Agent: Attorney Marjorie Shansky GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS Located at Old Saybrook, Connecticut this 17th day of February, 2022 Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals Charles Gadon, Chairman 2/17/2022 7148287



NOTICE TO OPERITORS

ESTATE OF Ann H. Horan-Young, Late of Clinton, AKA Lida H. Horan-Young (22-0039)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Constance (Penny) E. Harrah

c/o KERRY E KNOBELSDORFF-MCKAY,

KNOBELSDORFF-LAW OFFICE, LLC, PO BOX
809, OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475

2/17/22 7151075

## TOWN OF CROMWELL PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 224 of the Cromwell Town Hall at 41 West Street on the following item:

1. Application #22-01: Request for a Use Permit for Travelers Championship Golf Tournament at 100 Golf Club Road. Greater Hartford Community Foundation Inc. is the Applicant; Tournament Players Club of Connecticut Inc. is the Owner

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written testimony received. This application is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Planner.

Alice Kelly

Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 14th day of February 2022. 2/17 & 2/24 7147672

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# Finding early signs of cancer

Researchers discover that having Type 2 diabetes may herald the existence of pancreatic cancer

The New York Times

Pancreatic cancer is a nasty, stubborn killer that has thus far defied medicine's best efforts at early diagnosis and curative treatment. In November, it claimed the life of my friend Peter Zimroth, a 78-year-old New York City attorney who was devoted to public service and who most recently oversaw the decline in the Police Department's stop-andfrisk strategy.

Zimroth had been on my 'most admired" list even before he married actress Estelle Parsons, who was 16 years his senior. Even during his yearlong, albeit losing, fight against cancer during the pandemic, Zimroth remained devoted to the public good, designing a brightly colored T-shirt and cap bearing an urgent plea, "Smash the Virus! Get the Shot," and raising more than \$73,000 to support research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where doctors tried valiantly to buy him more time.

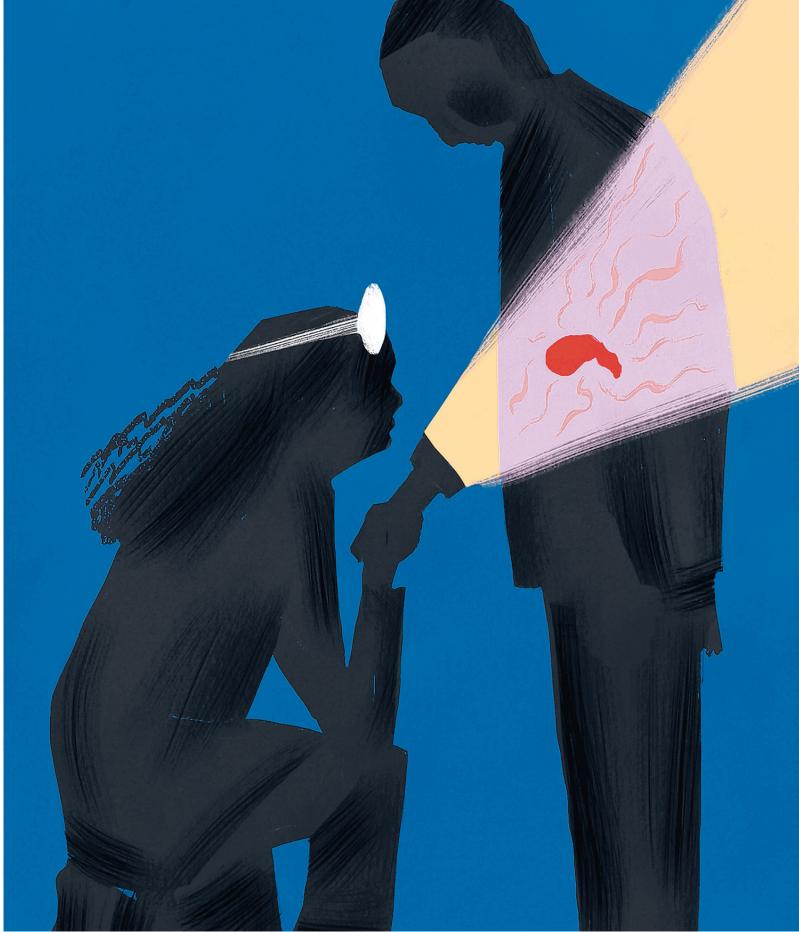
Zimroth was fit and active and in otherwise good health before symptoms developed — in his case, stomach pains and constipation. By that time, the cancer had spread and it was too late to operate. His death follows that of several other well-known people who have succumbed to the same disease: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek and Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

Although pancreatic cancer is a relatively rare cancer, it is so deadly that it is now on track to become the country's second leading cause of cancer-related deaths by 2040. Currently, it accounts for about 3% of all cancers and 7% of cancer deaths. Overall, only 1 in 10 people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survives five years. A cure is almost always a lucky accident, when the cancer is detected at an early, symptom-free stage during an unrelated abdominal scan or surgery and the tumor can be surgically removed.

Dr. Brian Wolpin, director of the gastrointestinal cancer center at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, told me that this is such a hard cancer to find early because "it's relatively uncommon in the population and the symptoms it causes, like weight loss, fatigue and abdominal discomfort, are nonspecific and more likely due to other conditions." As a result, he said, "when 80% of patients walk through my door for the first time, I know that we are highly unlikely to cure their cancer.

#### Risk factors for pancreatic

Still, there are several major risk factors for developing pancreatic cancer. Smoking doubles the risk and accounts for about one-quarter of all cases. Being obese, gaining excess weight as an adult and carrying extra weight around the waist, even if



LILLI CARRE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

not otherwise very overweight, also increase one's

That may be why Type 2 diabetes, which is most often related to being overweight, is an important risk factor as well. Other risks include chronic pancreatitis, a persistent inflammation of the pancreas often linked to heavy alcohol consumption and smoking, and workplace exposure to certain chemicals, including those used in dry cleaning and metal work industries.

Older age is also a risk factor — about two-thirds of cases occur in those 65 and older. And family history may also play a role, including inherited genetic conditions such as mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes that are most often associated with breast and ovarian cancers.

#### Diabetes as an early

warning sign It has long been known that the best chance of surviving most cancers results from early detection, when the malignancy is totally confined to the organ or tissue in which it originates. (Blood cancers present different issues.) The pancreas is a rather small, carrot-shaped organ about 6 inches long and less than 2 inches wide that lies well hidden between the ribs and the stomach.

An early cancer in the pancreas doesn't produce a lesion that can be felt, and it rarely causes symptoms that might prompt a definitive medical workup until it has escaped the confines of the pancreas and spread elsewhere.

But scientists are studying one possible early warning sign: a link between pancreatic cancer and newly developed Type 2 diabetes. Diabetes, too, arises in the pancreas, which contains specialized cells that produce the

hormone insulin that regulates blood-sugar levels. And although it's not yet known which comes first. diabetes or cancer, some research suggests that the recent development of Type 2 diabetes may herald the existence of cancer hidden in this organ.

An early study from 2005 of 2,122 residents of Rochester, Minnesota, by Dr. Suresh Chari, now a gastroenterologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, found that within three years of receiving a diagnosis of diabetes, people were six to eight times more likely than the general population to have pancreatic cancer. He, along with colleagues at the Mayo Clinic, also identified a gene called UCP-1 that may predict the development of this cancer in people with diabetes.

More recently, Dr. Maxim Petrov, a professor of pancreatology at the University of Auckland School of Medicine, led a September 2020 study in New Zealand of nearly 140,000 people with Type 2 diabetes or pancreatitis, or both, who were followed for up to 18 years. The findings revealed that those who developed diabetes after an attack of pancreatitis were seven times more likely to get pancreatic cancer than others

with Type 2 diabetes. Another effort begun last summer by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, called the Early Detection Initiative for Pancreatic Cancer, will enroll more than 12,000 participants with elevated blood-sugar levels and new-onset diabetes. Half will have periodic blood tests and undergo abdominal imaging based on their age, body weight and blood-glucose levels to look for evidence of early pancreatic cancer, while the others will serve as

controls.

The goal of such studies is to identify biological markers, such as certain genes or proteins excreted by the tumor, that could be used in screening tests to indicate the presence of cancer when it could still potentially benefit from surgery. Alas, the results are not likely to be known before 2030, if then.

Meanwhile, Wolpin said doctors should consider "a checklist" of warning signs that might alert them to the presence of an early, curable cancer. Among things to consider, he said, are whether a patient's glucose level is rising rapidly and is difficult to control with diabetes medication; whether patients with diabetes are losing weight with no explanation like a change in diet or exercise; or if patients have been fine for years and then suddenly in their early 70s get diabetes and it's not clear why.

## Acne's genome secrets could bring about better treatments

HealthDay News

For countless teens, it's the scourge of adolescence. But researchers say the discovery of new genetic variants associated with acne could help doctors identify people at high risk and perhaps point the way to new treatments.

"Despite major treatment advances in other skin conditions, progress in acne has been limited," said Catherine Smith, coauthor of a new study. "As

well as suffering from the symptoms of acne, individuals describe consequent profound, negative impacts on their psychological and social well-being," said Smith, a professor of dermatology and therapeutics at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in Britain.

"It's exciting that this work opens up potential avenues to find treatments for them," Smith added.

For the study, the U.K. team examined whole

genome data collected worldwide from more than 20,000 people with acne and more than 595,000 without the skin condition.

The analysis revealed 29 new genetic variants that are more common in people with acne, bringing the total number of known variants to 46.

A number of the newly identified variants are in genes linked to other skin and hair conditions. This may help improve understanding about the causes of acne, which could be a mix of factors, according to the authors.

The findings were published online in the journal Nature Communications.

The investigators also found that people with the highest genetic risk of acne are more likely to have severe cases. Further research is required, but this suggests that it may be possible to identify people at risk of severe disease so they can receive early treatment, the study authors

"We know that the causes of acne are complicated, with a mix of biological factors, such as genetics and hormones, and environmental factors," said Michael Simpson, head of the Genomic Medicine Group at King's College London. "Understanding the genetics of the condition will help us to disentangle some of these causes. and find the best way to treat the condition."



**DREAMSTIME** 

## GLAAD awards to honor Rodriguez

From news services

"Pose" star Michaela Jae "Mj" Rodriguez will be honored at the GLAAD Media Awards for her efforts to advance acceptance for LGBTQ people of color.

Rodriguez, the first transgender woman to receive a lead actress Emmy nomination, will receive the Stephen F. Kolzak Award given to LGBTQ media professionals who counter anti-LGBTQ bias.

"Michaela Jae Rodriguez is an undeniable talent who is changing the way audiences understand trans people while breaking down barriers for the trans community and LGBTQ people of color within the entertainment industry," GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement.

Rodriguez, who earned a Golden Globe Award for her role as Blanca on "Pose," also stars in the Netflix film directed by Lin-Manuel Miranda, "tick...tick...BOOM!," and is slated to appear with Maya Rudolph in the Apple TV+ series "Loot." She also has an upcoming album set for release.

Rodriguez will be honored at the April 2 awards ceremony in Los Angeles. The 200-plus previously announced GLAAD award nominees in 30 categories include Lil Nas X, Demi Lovato, Elton John, "West Side Story,"
"Pose" and "Dancing with the Stars.

BTS concert event set for March: K-pop band BTS will grace the big screen in theaters worldwide on March 12 during the live concert broadcast "BTS Permission to Dance on Stage - Seoul: Live View-

The event marks the first live worldwide cinema broadcast of a concert from South Korea. With



Mj Rodriguez will receive the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the GLAAD Media Awards. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION 2021

a three-hour run time, "Permission to Dance on Stage" will feature BTS' greatest hits performed by band members RM, Jin. Suga, J-hope, Jimin, V and Jung Kook.

'Yellowstone'saga expanding again: The hit series "Yellowstone" is becoming a mothership with yet another prequel.

The Paramount+ streaming service said it has ordered the series "1932," about the roots of the Dutton ranching family first introduced in the contemporary drama 'Yellowstone."

The cast and release date for "1932" were not announced. The new chapter will focus on the Duttons during Prohibition and the Great Depression, Paramount+ said.

The first prequel, "1883" is in its first season and will be back for a second, the service said Tuesday. Sam Elliott, Tim McGraw and

Faith Hill are among the stars.

Kevin Costner leads the cast of "Yellowstone." which launched creator-producer Taylor Sheridan's western expansion saga on cable's Paramount Network.

"While most shows franchise near the end of their run, we seized the opportunity to franchise in real time" to foster success for both streaming and cable properties, said Chris McCarthy, president and CEO of Paramount Media Networks.

Feb. 17 birthdays: Actor Christina Pickles is 87. Actor Brenda Fricker is 77. Actor Becky Ann Baker is 69. Actor Rene Russo is 68. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 60. Singer Chante Moore is 55. Actor Jerry O'Connell is 48. Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is 41. TV personality Paris Hilton is 41. Singer Ed Sheeran is 31.



## **ASK AMY**

**By Amy Dickinson** 

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

#### An argument usually precedes an apology

**Dear Amy:** I need advice on the way forward in my marriage.

I have been married to a good woman for more than 20 years. We are raising great kids, and we are both proud of them.

However, I feel unloved as a husband. We have no sex life. I only recall two times in which she kissed me. I have asked her about couples therapy, but she is not interested.

Recently I stopped speaking to her when we were talking about some other couples who divorced, and she said that I always blame the wife.

I said that was a gross exaggeration, and that I want an apology. In two decades of

marriage, I cannot recall a single apology from her. What is the way forward? I aspire to have a

good relationship with her. — Perplexed Husband

Dear Perplexed: You may deserve an apology — or many apologies — but you seem to have skipped many steps between hearing a gross generalization, disputing it, and expecting an apology. If you are expecting an apology from someone you know doesn't ever offer them, then you are throwing down the gauntlet, when you might possibly be communicating — even if it is through an argument.

(Remember that great line from the movie "Jerry Maguire": "You think we're fighting, and I think we're finally talking!")

I'm not saying that you are at fault, but you want to have a good relationship with someone you portray as unwilling or incapable of having one with you.

Long relationships might start on a firm foundation, but without genuine apologies and forgiveness, they fail under the weight of too much unfinished business.

You may not be able to repair what is broken between you two. The only thing you can do is to commit to changing yourself. Counseling would be a great place to start.

Once you experience a shift in your own attitudes and behavior, you may see changes in her — or you may understand that your relationship is irreparable and that a peaceful parting would be best for you.

Dear Amy: I have a widowed male friend. His wife was one of my dearest friends, and I have maintained a friendship with him since her death.

He has a band, and women have apparently been interested in "keeping him company."

He is constantly talking about women calling him, etc. I told him it was a boring rehash of high school talk. He is 77. I care about his welfare, but I am sick of his female antics stories. They boost his ego, but we are all tired of the stories.

I can be pretty blunt. He doesn't get that no one is interested, except for him. All conversations lead to him. Any suggestions on how to get him to end the bragging?

– Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: When confronting your friend about his journey back to high school through his experience in this granddad band, you should speak only for yourself.

Do not tell him that "no one is interested." You don't actually know that.

Tell him, "I'm asking you to remember that your late wife was one of my closest friends. Every time I hear you going on about female groupies, it makes me sad. It's also not of interest at least, to me. You have the right to live your life the way you want to, but I'd like you to refrain from talking about your prospects or conquests with me. Could you respect my wishes here?"

While you're at it, you could remind him that enduring friendships last through time because people actually "share." This means that he needs to listen, as well as talk.

Dear Amy: Thank you for your response to "Concerned Mom," who was concerned about her daughter's weight.

I've been learning so much about fatphobia, the BMI and my own fatphobic ideas. I know that this mom was not being mean, but focusing on her daughter's weight and bad food choices was upsetting.

Most obese people, I have learned, see the most judgment and shame from their own family, not strangers.

Your response was firm and kind. She is an adult, she knows what she looks like, her life is her own. - A Fan

**Dear Fan:** I've got more of my own work to do - and thank you.

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Content Agency

**TV REVIEW** 

## Docuseries an inspirational oral history of Black comedy scene

**By Robert Lloyd** Los Angeles Times

"Phat Tuesdays," a three-part docuseries now streaming on Amazon Prime, tells the story of the weekly show that brought Black comedy and Black audiences to West Hollywood and the Comedy Store, from 1995 to 2005, as well as what came before and what's come after. Directed by Reginald Hudlin, it's an oral history with pictures, interspersed with clips of comics in their youth, that details what Dave Chappelle calls "an under-recognized cultural moment."

Moved along by a cast of famous and less famous faces from older and less old generations - including Tiffany Haddish, Cedric the Entertainer, Regina King, Luenell, J.B. Smoove, Jay Pharoah, Nick Cannon, Steve Harvey, Chris Tucker, Snoop Dogg, Lil Rel Howery, Bill Bellamy and George Wallace — it is surprisingly sweet and inspirational for something also quite raucous and more than occasionally raunchy.

That might have something to do with the character of its central figure, comedian and actor Guy Torry, who created Phat Tuesday, and though it is true that Torry is the executive producer of the series, there is much testimony to his generosity, openness and all-around niceness, qualities that also come through in his on-stage segments. He seems to be using the documentary as a platform to thank all the people who helped him, and to give credit to the people he helped.

It's a Golden Age story, looking at a special place in its years of glory; the pitch is both to people who remember and the uninformed ripe to be amazed



Jay Pharoah in the three-part docuseries "Phat Tuesdays." **GREG NOIRE/AMAZON STUDIOS** 

and jealous - nostalgia and nostalgia by proxy. ("Phat Tuesday was something very, very special to witness, to say you were there," says Anthony Anderson. "Isn't that what this whole documentary is about?") As an instrumental stage, seemingly, of most every comedian who has gotten famous since the 1970s, the Comedy Store has itself been the focus or the incidental setting of many documentaries; the very fact that Phat Tuesday took place there gave the showcase cachet. "It put a lot of weight on it," says comic Kym Whitley. "This is the big time."

Before there was Phat Tuesday, there was the Comedy Act Theater, where in the early 1990s Guy's already established older brother Joe Torry was working as the emcee; running through the docuseries is a story of sibling rivalry and support.

Like most any documentary determined to tag every base, it taps some lightly, others firmly; the third episode is largely a grab bag of themes. We learn more about Guy and Joe; Guy's teeth; the sexual scene; Guy's openness

to female comics when women had to fight or, let's say, barter for stage time at many other venues, and his booking transgender comedian Flame Monroe ("long before," says Monroe, "trans was all over TV"); Phat Tuesday comics who weren't Black (the late Bob Saget worked there for six months); the similarities between music and comedy, rappers and comics; bombing and the demands of the Black audience (Harvey is especially funny on this); and the fact that comedy, at a high level, is hard work, an art and a science, inspirational and experimental, requiring not just talent but also discipline. A generous amount of time is devoted to the new generation of comics, who do their work through social media, independent of any place or scene.

And finally, there is the Comedy Store wall, and the importance of having one's name written there -"It's immortalizing," says Pharoah – which leads to an overtly sentimental but genuinely moving conclu-

Where to watch: Amazon

#### **HOROSCOPES**

Aries (March 21-April 19): Staying focused can be hard work. Remember that if you don't, you could end up leaving something unfinished, which can bring its own problems. That doesn't that mean you need to stay on the ball for every second of the day.

Taurus (April 20-May

20): Not everyone you meet will be your favorite person. You might wish you hadn't been so sociable if you find yourself cornered by someone you find irritating. Stay open to new people coming into your life. Someone you don't like might introduce you to a new friend. Keep your options open.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): People's expectations of you could be verging on unreasonable. They might be misjudging the situation. It might not matter too much in the end. Things can run even more smoothly if you're prepared to be flexible. especially if any requests catch you by surprise.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): This isn't an ideal time to be self-righteous. There's a risk that people will jump to conclusions about you that are wildly wrong. Maybe they wouldn't have been wrong in the past. You might want to patiently bring people up to date about where you stand.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Borrowing from the future might not be your best move. You may commit yourself to something you don't have the time to do. Agreeing to something before you're sure of your availability could be a big mistake. Wait until you have a better grasp of what you're doing.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might feel a little smothered by someone today. It can be hard to predict how people will react if they feel cornered, so it would be wise to be as flexible as possible. That way you can deal more easily with the surprises people might throw your way. Those surprises can take your breath away.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): People in your workplace might seem so chirpy that it's unnatural. Though it's obviously nice that they're in a good mood, it can also be really tiring. A different atmosphere can result in a different way of doing things. Try to be as accommodating as you can until things settle down.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Overstepping boundaries could cause a problem. You might feel like taking a risk when it comes to connecting with others, but the risk of failure could be even bigger than you realize. Your best options are probably ones that you've already invested some time and energy into.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. **21):** Domestic demands drain your energy at the moment. People making requests doesn't mean you have to give in. You might want to make yourself unavailable so you can avoid the issue. Just be careful that you don't automatically say "no" without thinking!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You find even the most ordinary things interesting. Maybe someone you have a chat with turns out to be fascinating. You could also glance at an online article and end up feeling happily astonished at what you read. Don't be afraid to seek out little sparks of joy like these ones to keep your life interesting.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Being too generous could be your downfall. Promising more than you can really afford may cause problems that take a long time to resolve. The best approach is to under-promise so you can over-deliver. Even the smallest gestures can be appreciated.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): A little self-indulgence could be on your agenda today. It's unlikely to do you any harm, as long as you stay reasonable. A new and better course of action could come your way before you know it. There are a lot of possibilities that you've likely never considered. Grab the moment.

#### TODAY IN **HISTORY**

Associated Press

On Feb. 17, 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie, electing Thomas Jefferson president.

**In 1863,** the International Red Cross was founded.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley in the first naval attack of its kind.

In 1959, the United States launched Vanguard 2, a satellite that carried meteorological equipment.

In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1995, Colin Ferguson was convicted of six counts of murder in the 1993 Long Island Rail Road shootings.

In 2014, Jimmy Fallon made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 2021, talk radio host Rush Limbaugh died.

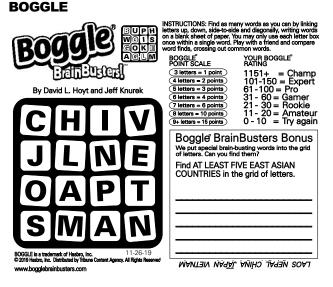
#### **BONUS PUZZLE PAGE**

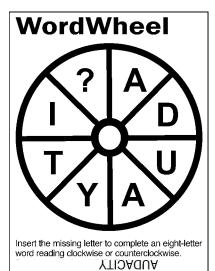
An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at **Play.Jumble.com** 



#### **SUDOKU**

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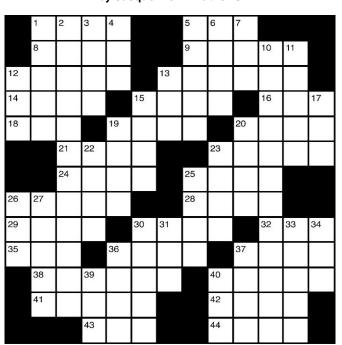


#### **WORD SEARCH**



#### **TV CROSSWORD**

#### by Jacqueline E. Mathews



#### **ACROSS** Actress Paquin

- "Murder, \_\_ Wrote"
  "The \_\_"; talk show for Whoopi
  "Mea \_\_"; admission of guilt
- 12 Bicyclist Armstrong 13 Popular prime-time soap opera
- 14 DEFG followers
- 15 Actor Harmon 16 Tamera Mowry's twin
- 18 Ending for pay or Motor
- 19 Lion's neck hair 20 Actor Neeson
- "That Was the \_ That Was";
- David Frost political satire series 23 Boy on "The Partridge Family"
- 24 Up to the task 25 Silent film actress Theda
- 26 Gilbert and Rue 28 Actor Sandler
- 29 Like a bloody horror movie
- 30 Skillets 32 Paul's cousin on "Mad About
- 35 Prefix for cycle or angle 36 Very dry



- \_ Campbell Goodtime 37 "The
- 38 Leo G. Carroll series of early TV 40 "The Life of \_\_"; William Bendix
- sitcom
- 41 Zodiac sign 42 "Rock of \_\_\_"; Alec Baldwin movie
- 43 Suffix for heir or host
- 44 Grow weary

#### DOWN

- 1 To no \_\_; ineffectively 2 "American \_\_"; action game
- show 3 Least-popular piece of chicken
- 4 Feeling of wonderment 5 "Let's \_\_ Jessica to Death";
- Zohra Lampert horror movie "The Incredible \_\_"
- Perpendicular building wing 10 Actress on "Madam Secretary"
- 11 Thai or Japanese 12 JFK's assassin 13 Role on "Roseanne"
- 15 "Let's \_ 15 "Let's \_\_ a Deal"
  17 Mom on "Little People, Big
- World"
- 19 Diner where Alice worked20 Dr. Zhivago's love22 Auction lover's site
- 23 "My Two 25 "My Iwo \_\_ 25 "Making the \_\_"; reality series 26 "\_\_. Pepper's Lonely Hearts
- Club Band"
- 27 Vital blood vessel 30 "Meet the \_\_\_"
- 31 "Up in the \_\_\_"; George Clooney movie
- movie
  33 "Touched by an Angel" actress
  34 "\_\_Given Sunday"; Pacino film
  36 "Planet of the \_\_"
  37 Leslie Caron Oscar-winning film
  39 "American \_\_"; Jason Biggs film
  40 Long-tailed rodent

## NORTHERLY

M E A

T H R O B

J A C K A L

MANNA

T O Y

#### **JUMBLE**

PERM

COIFFURE

hair handling

GOLDLEAF

G P O

|T|R|E|E

|E|N|M|E|S|H

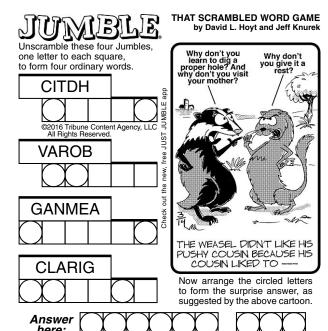
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D I S C R A Y



STYLE

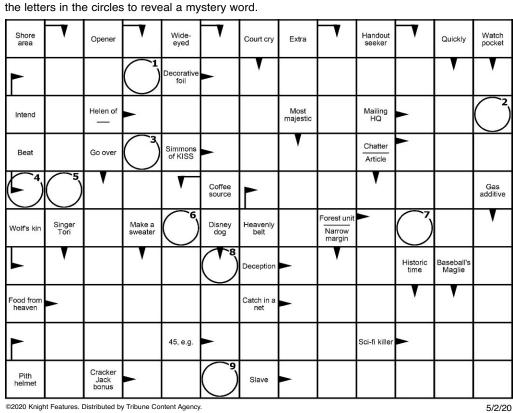
BRAVO MANAGE Jumbles: DITCH **GARLIC** The weasel didn't like his pushy cousir because his cousin liked to — BADGER HIM

#### **ARROW WORDS**

T|R|O|Y

GEN

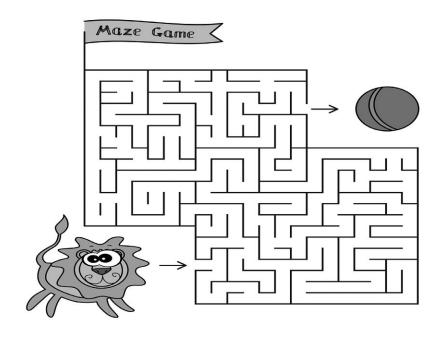
#### Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble



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#### 3 5

#### **KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES**





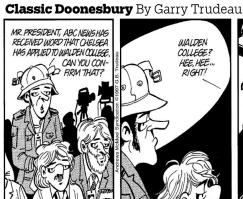
#### **Peanuts** By Charles M. Schulz















Garfield By Jim Davis

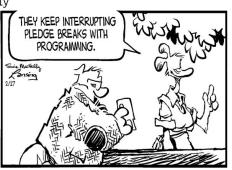






**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly





**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker





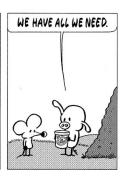


**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis







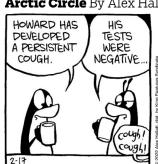


**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell





Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt









**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley









**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall

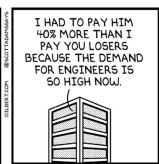






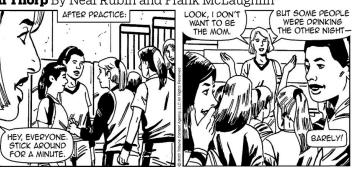
#### **Dilbert** By Scott Adams



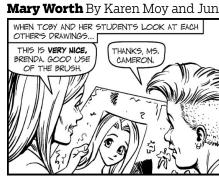




Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman





Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty







Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley





**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos

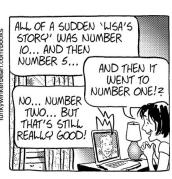




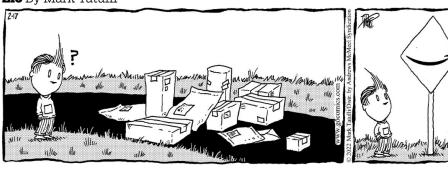








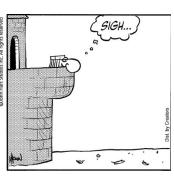
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker







Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



**Monty** By Jim Meddick



#### For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston









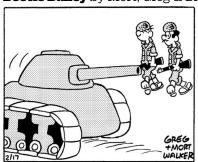
**B.C.** By Hart



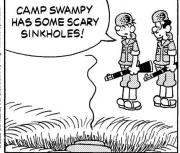




**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker







Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

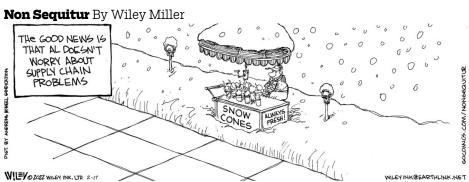




Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne















Pickles By Brian Crane







**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman







Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters



#### EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

#### Across Oktoberfest toast 62 Surge protector?

63 Verb in much

65 Bowling unit

1 L.A. is on it in

2 Do a farm job

3 High-end hotel

5 Caterpillar, say

military movie

more than 300

6 Demi Moore

8 TV host with

vehicles

9 Unpopular

raises

summer

chain

4 "I'm okay

with it"

Related

Down

64 "The \_\_ the limit"

written dialogue

- "Atlas Shrugged" hero John
- 10 Split 14 Object Store with
- 15 Småland play areas
- Wind in the reeds
- Patty Hearst alias 18 Whammy
- 19 Self-named 2000s sitcom
- set in Texas 20 Excel on the
- mound 23 Blow away
- 24 Steam Increase the mobility of, as a
- checker 31 Reclusive sort
- 32 Pin expert? 35 Cheerio morsel
- Court responses
- 38 "Bravo!" 39 Not as well insulated
- 42 Weasel cousin
- 44 Do a plumbing job
- 47 Boxer's remark? 48 Dullsounding
- beast 49 Recommend, with "for," and a hint to the start of 20-, 25- and
- 44-Across 56 Malevolent Equine control
- 58 "The Grapes of Wrath" migrants

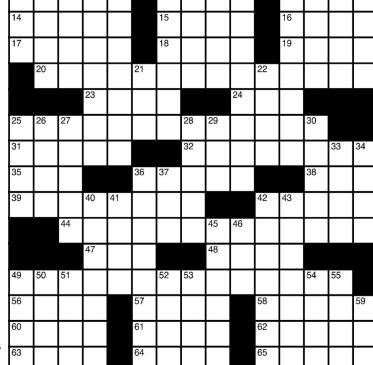
#### CROSSWORD

- 60 Fool on the ice 10 Sign 61 Canasta play 11 What an
  - accessory may do 12 Judicial garb
  - 13 Go like the dickens 21 Castaway's
  - shelter 22 Eye part
  - 25 Walk tediously 26 Sign of crowd approval
  - 27 Ready to draw
  - 28 Nobody \_pro nobis 29
  - 30 Golden 33 "Boo'd Up"
  - Grammy winner Mai 34
  - Strongly suggest, with "of
  - 36 Animal husbandry

facilities

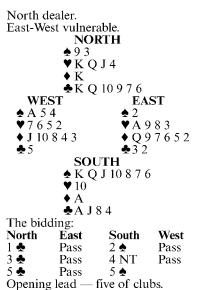
- 37 Moldova currency
- Thrashed (about)
- \_loose: free 42 Navy nuclear sub class
- "Today" weatherman
- 45 Some gov't issues
- 46 Mason's carrier
- Crosswalk users, briefly
- 50 Iris layer \_bar: Polynesian-
- themed spot 52 Many a techie 53 Like many
- a mechanic's rag
- 54 1972 Derby

- winner \_\_ Ridge 55 Think
- 59 Call in poker



#### **BRIDGE**

BY STEVE BECKER



By Bruce Venzke

The telltale heart Assume you're West and it's your lead against five spades. North's five-club

bid over four notrump, using regular Blackwood, tells you that he is aceless, and South's retreat to five spades should say he has only two aces. This means that your partner has an ace

 — which could easily be the ace of clubs and this in turn tells you that the best lead by far is your singleton club. So you lead a club, taken by declarer with dummy's queen.

At this point — assuming that your theory about partner having an ace is correct — you have no way of knowing whether it is the ace of diamonds or the ace of hearts. (He can't have the ace of clubs or he'd have taken it at trick one and returned a club). So, when declarer next

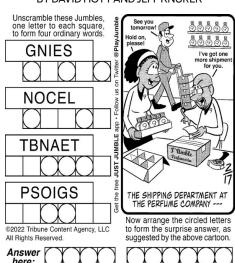
leads a low spade from dummy and plays the king, you must resist the temptation to win it because you wouldn't know which suit to return to secure the club ruff. Fortunately, you can afford to duck the king because you have another low trump available for the club ruff.

Tribune Content Agency 2/17/22

When South next plays the six of spades, you step up with the ace, hoping East can clarify the situation for you. As it happens, East shows out of trump and, aware that you are looking to him for guidance, signals with the nine of hearts. This is manna from heaven. East's illuminating discard removes all the guesswork, so you lead a heart to East's ace, and his club return puts South out of business.

**Tomorrow:** Test your play.

**JUMBLE** BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



Jumbles: FABLE

Answer:

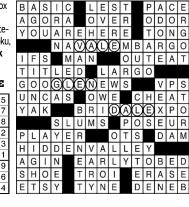
#### **TODAY'S SUDOKU**

#### 8 6 9 3 1 3 4 9 5 ANSWER TO 2 7 6 1 8 4 5 8 1 5 2 7 4 2 8 5

6

4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk** 



BLURT

The bird that didn't fly away in the face of danger was - UNFLAPPABLE

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS** 

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** 

(Answers tomorrow)

PALACE

**PEANUT** 

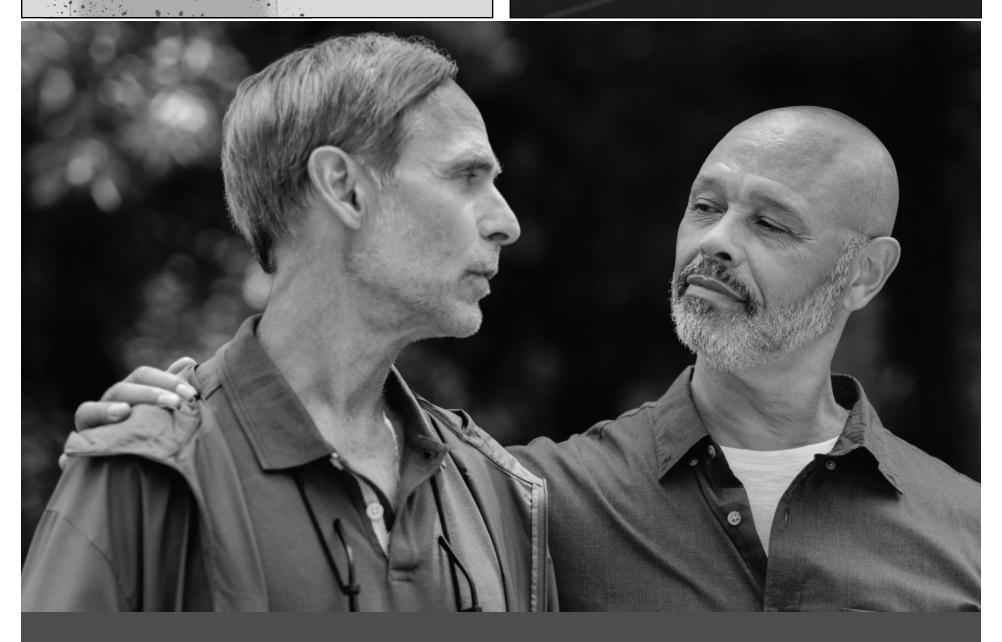


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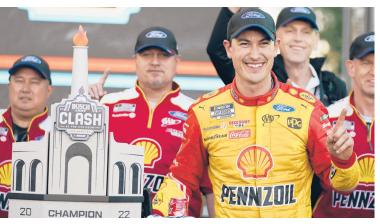
alzheimer's S association

# SPORTS

**COURANT.COM/SPORTS** 

NASCAR DAYTONA 500

# Middletown's Logano primed for another run



Joey Logano, front right, celebrates after winning a NASCAR exhibition auto race at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 6 MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

By Dom Amore

Middletown's Joey Logano had that moment that comes with racing cars for a living, the moment when it can all end.

It was at Talladega, in the 60th lap of the Geico 500 on April 25, 2021. In a pack of cars, the average speed 147.6 MPH, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. bumped Denny Hamlin, who bumped Logano's car and sent it spinning. Logano went airborne, flying upside down over Bubba Wallace's car, his No. 22 Mustang landing on its roof.

inding on its roof.
"My life kind of flashed before

my eyes when we wrecked at Talladega," Logano said Wednesday, from Media Day at the Daytona 500, where he will chase an elusive second victory on Sunday. "I had a roll bar crushed under my helmet and had my head pinned in there. One little different move from Bubba Wallace, I'm dead. It's that close. You always think it's not going to happen to you, but when something happens that close, it changes your mindset a little bit. We've got to make this better. So it was a kind of full-court press from me to make that better."

Extra roll bars were installed before the end of last season. A year

#### Incide

NASCAR season preview. Page 5

later, Logano is driving the Next Gen car, with a new roof construc-

"The roof structure is quite a bit stronger," Logano said. "Being a taller driver, that's important. The intrusion piece should be better. Some gains were we made with new car, but it's something we never want to stop improving on. We have safer race cars now

**Turn to Logano,** Page 4

#### UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Bueckers returns to team practice Wednesday

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

UConn women's basketball star and reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers is inching closer to her return following December knee surgery to repair a tibial plateau fracture and lateral meniscus tear in her left knee.

Bueckers, a sophomore guard, was seen practicing with the team Wednesday with a brace on her knee, two days before the No. 10 Huskies take on Xavier in Cincinnati. In the open portion of practice she worked a bit on offensive sets with UConn's starters, going up against the practice players on defense.

UConn coach Geno Auriemma said it was "the first day that she was able to get out on the court where there was some semblance of defense and that she could run up and down the floor a couple of times, two trips at a time for a few minutes. Up to now, the last couple of days were just shooting and some mobility testing."

"Oh my gosh, she's finally back," sophomore Nika Mühl

**Turn to UConn,** Page 4

#### Up next



UConn at Xavier 7 p.m. Friday, SNY

#### SETON HALL AT UCONN MEN



JESSICA HILL/AP

# PRESSURE SITUATION

UConn guard R.J. Cole pressures Seton Hall's Kadary Richmond, right, during the first half of a Big East Conference game on Wednesday at Gampel Pavilion. The game was not over in time for this edition. Go to **courant.com/sports** for the result.

• • • • • WINTER OLYMPICS AT A GLANCE A look at top results and news from the Beijing Games.

 MEDAL LEADERS (as of 10 p.m. ET Wednesday)

 Country
 G
 S
 B
 Tot

 Norway
 13
 7
 8
 28

 Russian Olympic Committee
 4
 8
 12
 24

 Germany
 10
 6
 4
 20

 United States
 8
 7
 4
 19

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Canada

■ The U.S. men's hockey team was the top seed in the knockout round but blew a late lead and suffered a 3-2 shootout loss to Slovakia in the quarterfinals. Canada also exited the tournament Wednesday with a 2-0 loss to Sweden.

a 2-0 loss to Sweden.
■ Norwegian cross-country skier
Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo, right,
became the first man to win both
the team and individual sprints at
two straight Olympics.

More coverage, Pages 3, 5



11

AARON FAVILA/AP

WINTER OLYMPICS MEN'S HOCKEY

# 'This one's going to sting'

Dreams dashed early for US men in stunning shootout loss to Slovakia

**By John Powers**Boston Globe

David Quinn tried to put a smiley face on it.

"We were actually joking that we still haven't lost a game really—we lost a shootout," the US men's hockey coach said Wednesday after his young squad was beaten by Slovakia in the Olympic quarterfinals in Beijing. "That's the frustrating part."

The score may have been 2-2 after the overtime period, but the Slovaks are heading to the semifinals to face Finland, and the Americans are heading home shy of the medal round just as they did four years ago when the Czechs also beat them in a quarterfinal shootout.

"This one's going to sting for a little bit for all of us," said former Bruins defenseman Steve Kampfer after his mates gave up the lead in the final minute and had all five shootout bids denied by goaltender Patrik Rybar.

What stings most is that the Americans, the decided underdogs coming into the tournament,

had a strong chance at collecting their first medal since 2010 and a reasonable shot at their first gold since the Boys of Winter shocked the world in 1980.

The Americans were the only team in the 12-country field to win all three of their preliminary games in regulation. They hung an 8-0 drubbing on a Chinese squad that was stocked with North American ringers. They beat the Canadians for only the fourth time in 102 years. They knocked off the Germans, the 2018 silver medalists. And they came from behind to put

**Turn to Hockey,** Page 4

## Did you know?

Half of the drivers who are on the receiving end of an aggressive behavior, such as horn honking, a rude gesture, or tailgating admit to responding with aggressive behavior themselves.

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#### **SPORTS**

#### **UP NEXT**

UConn MBB: Xavier (Gampel), Saturday, noon; Villanova (XL), Tuesday, 8 p.m.; at Georgetown, Feb. 27, noon UConn WBB: at Xavier, Friday, 7 p.m.; Georgetown (XL), Sunday, 2 p.m.; Marquette (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m. Celtics: at Nets, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.; at Pistons, Feb. 26, noon; at Pacers, Feb. 27, 5 p.m. Knicks: Heat, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Feb. 27, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, March 2, Nets: Wizards, Thursday,

Nets: Wizards, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Celtics, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.; at Bucks, Feb. 26, 8:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: UMass, Friday, 7 p.m.; at UMass, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Northeastern, Feb. 25,

7 p.m. **Bruins:** at Islanders, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Senators, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Avalanche, Monday, 1 p.m.

Rangers: Red Wings, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Sunday, 5 p.m.; Capitals, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Wolf Pack: Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Bridgeport, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Springfield, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

#### TV/RADIO AUTO RACING

5 p.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series NextEra Energy 250, Practice. (Live) FS1 7 p.m.: NASCAR Cup Series Bluegreen Vacations Duel 1 At DAYTONA. (Live) FS1 8:30 p.m.: NASCAR Cup Series Bluegreen Vacations Duel 2 At DAYTONA. (Live) FS1 BASKETBALL

**6 p.m.:** Women's College: Pittsburgh at Miami. (Live) ACC

6 p.m.: Towson at UNC-Wilmington. (Live) CBSSN 7 p.m.: Women's College:

Auburn at South Carolina. (Live) SEC **7 p.m.:** Michigan at Iowa.

**7 p.m.:** Michigan at Iowa (Live) ESPN **7 p.m.:** Wichita State at

7 p.m.: Wichita State at Cincinnati. (Live) ESPN2 7 p.m.: Austin Peay State at Murray State. (Live) ESPNU

7:30 p.m.: Wizards at Nets. (Live), YES 8 p.m.: Women's College: Notre Dame at Georgia Tech. (Live) ACC 8 p.m.: Charlotte at Western Kentucky. (Live)

**8:30 p.m.:** 76ers at Bucks. (Live) TNT

(Live) TNT 9 p.m.: Women's College: Texas A&M at Ole Miss. (Live) SEC

9 p.m.: Oregon at Arizona State. (Live) ESPN 10 p.m.: Creighton at DePaul. (Live) CBSSN 11 p.m.: Utah at Stanford. (Live) ESPNU 11 p.m.: Washington State at UCLA. (Live) FS1 12 a.m.: Nevada at San

**GOLF 4 p.m.:** The Genesis
Invitational, First Round.
(Live) GOLF

Jose State. (Live) CBSSN

HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Red Wings at
Rangers. (Live), MSG
7:30 p.m.: Bruins at
Islanders. (Live), NESN
8 p.m.: Seattle Kraken at
Winnipeg Jets. (Live) NHL
9 p.m.: Anaheim Ducks at
Edmonton Oilers. (Live)
SPRTNET

**OLYMPICS 9:30 a.m.:** Nordic Combined. (Same-day Tape) USA

11 a.m.: Women's Curling. (Same-day Tape) USA 2 p.m.: Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing, Alpine Skiing. (Same-day Tape) NBC

**2 p.m.:** Men's Curling, First Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape) USA

**5 p.m.:** Men's Curling, First Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape) CNBC

**5 p.m.:** Women's Hockey, Gold Medal Game - Canada vs U.S. (Sameday Tape) USA **8 p.m.:** Speed Skating,

Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing. (Live) NBC 8 p.m.: Men's Curling, Second Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape)

8:30 p.m.: Freestyle Skiing. (Live) USA 10:45 p.m.: Freestyle Skiing. (Live) USA 11:10 p.m.: Men's Hockey, First Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) USA

#### **GIANTS**

# Daboll adds 'wild guy' Cox to coaching staff

**By Pat Leonard** New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Brian Daboll hired three-time Pro Bowl linebacker Bryan Cox on Wednesday to be the Giants' new assistant defensive line coach. Cox, 54, hasn't worked in the NFL since he coached the Atlanta Falcons' defensive line from 2014-16. One source said Cox is a "wild guy" whose reputation accurately represents his coaching style, at least going back to when he last coached in the league.

Cox got into a sideline fight with Buccaneers LB Adam Hayward in 2012 while on Tampa Bay's staff. He caught flak for humiliating Falcons players Donte Rumph and Ra'Shede Hageman on HBO's Hard Knocks in 2014. He shoved an Arizona Cardinals scout at the NFL Combine in 2016. And the Falcons fired him three days after their Super Bowl collapse in 2016.

"I've been looking at some of the mistakes I made and (thinking about) what I would do differently," Cox told

the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 2020. "One of the biggest things that I think I would come up with, when people that are supposedly close to you, but don't feel like you're approachable, that they can talk to you. You have to take a look at that."

Cox's son, Bryan Cox Jr., 27, a defensive end with the Bills, recently re-signed with Buffalo on a reserve/future contract. Schoen has started his Giants tenure by raiding the Bills' practice squad, so any player up there is worth keeping an eye on.

The Giants signed Bills practice squad WR Austin Proehl to a reserve/future contract on Tuesday. So all four of Schoen's signings so far have been Bills: Proehl, QB Davis Webb, P Jamie Gillan and RB Antonio Williams. Proehl is the son of former NFL wide receiver Ricky Proehl, who most recently coached the Carolina Panthers' wide receivers from 2013-16.

The Giants also hired Kevin Wilkins as a defensive assistant. Wilkins follows Martindale from Baltimore. He'd been with the Ravens since 2015, last season in the same position.

Second ankle surgery for Thomas: Starting left tackle Andrew Thomas had surgery in January on his left ankle for a second straight year, a source confirmed Wednesday. But Thomas, 23, is optimistic, the source

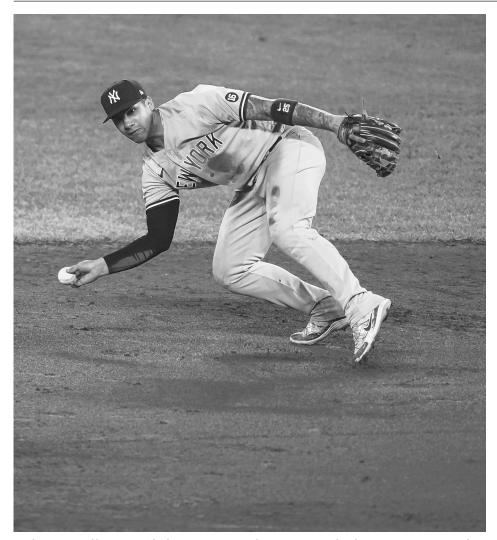
The procedure was similar to last year's, but the belief is that Dr. Robert Anderson (Green Bay) fixed everything with this late January surgery that has been giving Thomas problems for a while. Thomas' right ankle, also injured during this past season, did not require surgery and healed on its own.

Thomas had his first ankle surgery on Jan. 13, 2021, before last season. After a difficult preseason, the former No. 4 overall pick was playing pretty well in his second NFL year until reinjuring that left foot in a Week 4 win at New Orleans.

Thomas tried to gut it out two weeks later against the L.A. Rams, but he paid the price and had his right ankle rolled up on as he was hobbling to keep his bad left foot off the ground. That sent him to injured reserve.

Thomas returned and started the Giants' final eight games, however. He caught a 2-yard TD pass in Tampa Bay in his first game back. And there is optimism that he'll be fully healthy for his third NFL year. The Athletic first reported Thomas' surgery.

News and notes: Veteran tackle Nate Solder's contract automatically voided on Wednesday, making him a free agent, per The Athletic. The Giants will eat \$4 million in dead money in 2022 due to the terms of Solder's restructured contract. Solder, 33, had a disappointing Giants career after signing for big money in 2018 and became a whipping boy for fans in 2021. But he deserves credit for returning from his 2020 opt-out season and reclaiming a starting job on last year's line. The Giants' line stunk because of GM Dave Gettleman, but Solder had a tremendous training camp and reasserted himself as a true professional.



Yankees second baseman Gleyber Torres tries to bring in a grounder during a game against the Orioles on Sept. 14 in Baltimore. **JULIO CORTEZ/AP** 

#### YANKEES

# Back to school

Players working out on high school fields as lockout delays start of spring training

**By Kristie Ackert** New York Daily News

TAMPA — Around 12:30 p.m., as the groundskeeper waited, Gio Urshela and Gleyber Torres stopped their workout and began to pick up baseballs from around the field, then gathered up their bats and gloves and headed to their cars. They have to clear out of the way so the field could be ready for the big high school game in just a few hours.

This is big-league life in the lockout.

"We've been working out here [all offseason]," Urshela said after taking infield and hitting on the field. "We'll just keep doing it. We want to play, we're ready to go. We can't just be sitting on the couch. We have to keep ourselves ready."

On the day that big leaguers would be heading to their complexes across Florida and Arizona in a normal year, they are working out on their own because of the owners' lockout. When the league instituted the lockout on Dec. 2, that precluded players from using team facilities or any contact with team personnel

Now, as negotiations continue to crawl, spring training games, scheduled to begin Feb. 26 for the Yankees, are almost definitely going to be delayed and as the negotiations continue to stall out the March 31 scheduled Opening Day is in ignorardy.

ing Day is in jeopardy.
For most players, who are creatures of habit, it's a hitch in their routines.

"We just want to play. Hopefully, the negotiations

will move [along]," Urshela said. "We want to get back."

But for now, both players and the fans who usually book trips around their favorite team's spring training are in a holding pattern, as are the local businesses and workers who rely on spring training, as the negotiations between the two sides inch along.

But, it's something the players are prepared for.

"It's like 2020. That helped us [figure out] how to do this now, for sure," Urshela said.

coronavirus The pandemic shut down spring training suddenly in 2020 for nearly four months. The teams' complexes were closed, but many of the Yankees have homes in the Tampa area — as do many players from other teams who have complexes in the area like the Phillies, Blue Jays and obviously the Rays and scrambled to put together fields to work out on. Now, they have those spots to go back to as they wait for the owners and union to come to an agreement on a collective bargain-

That interrupted 2020 spring also gave the players and owners insight into how long they need a training camp to be. They had three weeks in 2020 and had an increase in injuries to pitchers, which many attribute to the short ramp-up.

"I think four weeks would be OK," Urshela said when asked how long they would need. "I am ready to go now, but four weeks for everyone"

The 2020 shutdown also prepared everyone for how

contentious these collective bargaining negotiations would be. The back and forth between players and owners over health and safety and the length of the season, which affected players' pay, foreshadowed the bitterness that lingers and which seems to be slowing down the process.

So Tuesday afternoon, it was the team from Hillsborough Community College that was walking on the fields at George M. Steinbrenner Field, not the Yankees. Instead, players like Torres and Ursheal were back on those high school fields that have small stands, concrete and chainlink fence dugouts and a time limit because of the high school schedule.

Fortunately for them, high school baseball is very big around here.

"The fields are amazing," Luke Voit said last week. "We didn't have them that nice in Missouri."

For Urshela, it probably wouldn't matter too much.
"I just like to be out there hitting and playing," Urshela

Urshela, who struggled with injuries last season, said he feels "100%," right now. The hamstring, knee and hand injuries that plagued him in 2021 are gone and he's in shape ready to play the 2022 season. He's spent most of his time getting himself healthy since the Bombers season ended in the American League Wild Card Game.

"I feel good, really good," said Urshela, who played in 116 games last season and slashed .267/.301/.419. "No issues."

#### **KNICKS**

## Guard Quickley mired in a brutal shooting slump

**By Stefan Bondy** New York Daily News

NEW YORK — There are sophomore slumps and then there are cliff falls like Immanuel Quickley's.

A rookie revelation last season, Quickley's "gift of shooting," as Tom Thibodeau likes to call it, had plummeted to just 36% overall and 32.2% from beyond the arc before Wednesday's game against the Nets.

And just like the Knicks' record, it's been especially bad lately.

Heading into Wednesday, Quickley was shooting (shield your eyes, children) 23.7% from the field and 18.6% on 3-pointers in his last 11 games. With Derrick Rose out since pre-Christmas, Quickley hasn't responded well to the added playmaking responsibilities with the second unit.

That bench, once the highlight of this wayward Knicks season, has suffered as a result. It has accentuated the absence of Rose, who should return from ankle surgery not long after the All-Star break.

The Knicks had lost 12 of their last 15 before Wednesday.

Thibodeau, who last season gave Quickley the green light to launch 30-foot jumpers, now suggested the 22-year-old hunt easier shots to boost his confidence.

"The big thing is to get him to see what he's done well in the past and then put the work into it," Thibodeau said. "Usually when you do that, if you can find a way to get some easy baskets — like right now, he's working pretty hard to get a shot. So some

easy baskets will help him too. Try to find some ways where maybe he can get a couple to go in and then he'll take off."

Still, Thibodeau hasn't lost confidence in his sparkplug scorer. Compared last season to Lou Williams and hailed by Paul George as "fearless," Quickley, the 25th overall pick in 2020, was still called for the biggest shot in Monday night's loss to the Thunder, when he bricked a potential tying trey with 1.5 seconds left in OT.

It was a curious call from Thibodeau since Quickley had already missed his other six shot attempts in that game. But the in-bounder, Alec Burks, never took his eyes off Quickley and fed him in the corner.

He missed. Quentin Grimes was also trying to get open at the top of the key.

"We knew they were switching everything so there are a couple things you can do on that," Thibodeau said. "I don't want to get into specifics but you try to get one from the corner, one from the top."

Thibodeau said he's not ready to judge the progress this season of Quickley or Obi Toppin, who, heading into Wednesday, had only once played over 20 minutes in a game since Jan. 2.

"It's continual, doesn't end," coach Tom Thibodeau said of the duo's growth. "You look at the season in totality, so at the end of the year, that's when you make a judgment on how the season went.

"They're making progress, [but] there's still a long way to go."

#### NETS

## NYC mayor weighs letting unvaxxed Irving play in Brooklyn

**By Dennis Young** New York Daily News

NEW YORK — In an extraordinary sign that Kyrie Irving may be fully available for the Nets later this year, two major figures, including the one with ultimate power, questioned New York City's vaccine requirement for hometown pro athletes on Wednesday.

Irving is the only player on either the Knicks or Nets who has refused to take a COVID vaccine, leaving him ineligible for home games, and road games at Madison Square Garden, where the Nets visit Wednesday

night.
First up was NBA
commissioner Adam
Silver, who spoke on ESPN

Wednesday morning.

"This law in New York, the oddity of it to me is that it only applies to home players," Silver said. "I think if ultimately that rule is about protecting people who are in the arena, it just doesn't quite make sense to me that an away player who is unvaccinated can play in Barclays but the home player can't. To me, that's a reason they should take a look at that ordinance."

Unvaccinated Kings guard Justin Holiday played in Brooklyn just Monday night. There is a proposed bill in the New York state senate closing the loophole for visiting athletes and musicians, which would surely assuage Silver's concerns.

#### SCOREBOARD

NBA				
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Philadelphia	34	23	.596	
Boston	34	25	.576	1
Toronto	31	25	.554	2 1/2
Brooklyn	30	27	.526	4
New York	25	33	.431	9 1/2
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Miami	37	21	.638	
Charlotte	29	30	.492	8 ½
Atlanta	28	30	.483	9 10
Washington Orlando	26 13	30 47	.464	10 25
Orianuo	13	41	.217	25
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Chicago	37	21	.638	
Milwaukee	36	23	.610	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Cleveland	35	23	.603	2
Indiana	19	40	.322	18 ½ 24 ½
Detroit	12	45	.211	24 72
WESTERN CONF				
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SOUTHWEST Memphis	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT</b> .695	
SOUTHWEST Memphis Dallas	<b>W</b> 41 34	18 24	.695 .586	6 1/2
Memphis Dallas New Orleans	41 34 23	18 24 35	.695 .586 .397	6 ½ 17 ½
Memphis Dallas New Orleans San Antonio	41 34 23 22	18 24 35 36	.695 .586 .397 .379	6 ½ 17 ½ 18 ½
Memphis Dallas New Orleans	41 34 23	18 24 35	.695 .586 .397 .379 .268	6 ½ 17 ½
Memphis Dallas New Orleans San Antonio	41 34 23 22	18 24 35 36	.695 .586 .397 .379	6 ½ 17 ½ 18 ½
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Memphis Dallas New Orleans San Antonio Houston  NORTHWEST  Utah Denver Minnesota Portland	W 41 34 23 22 15 W 36 32 31 24	18 24 35 36 41 <b>L</b> 21 25 27 34	.695 .586 .397 .379 .268 <b>PCT</b> .632 .561 .534 .414	6 ½ 17 ½ 18 ½ 24 ½  GB  - 4 5 ½ 12 ½
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#### Atlanta 130, Orlando 109

Brooklyn at New York, late Detroit at Boston, late Washington at Indiana, late Portland at Memphis, late Sacramento at Chicago, late San Antonio at Oklahoma City, late Toronto at Minnesota, late Houston at Phoenix, late Denver at Golden State, late Utah at L.A. Lakers, late

#### THURSDAY'S GAMES Miami at Charlotte, 7p.m. Washington at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.

Dallas at New Orleans, 8p.m. Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 8:30p.m. Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30p.m.

#### SATURDAY'S EVENTS All-Star Practice, 11a.m.

NBA x HBCU Classic, 2p.m State Farm All-Star Saturday Night Skills Challenge (first event) - 3-Point Contest (second event) - Slam Dunk (third event)

#### Legends Awards, noon

SUNDAY, EVENTS

G League Next Gem Game, 2p.m. 71st NBA All-Star Game, 8 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY'S RESULTS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE** 

Atlanta 124, Cleveland 116 Boston 135, Philadelphia 87 Dallas 107, Miami 99 Memphis 121, New Orleans 109 Minnesota 126, Charlotte 120(OT) Milwaukee 128, Indiana 119 Phoenix 103, L.A. Clippers 96

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	49	32	11	6	70	169	139
Florida	47	32	10	5	69	194	139
Toronto	46	31	12	3	65	167	125
Boston	47	27	16	4	58	136	132
Detroit	50	22	22	6	50	144	174
Buffalo	48	16	24	8	40	131	167
Ottawa	46	17	25	4	38	124	150
Montreal	48	8	33	7	23	106	191
METRO.	GP	w	1	OT	PTS	GF	GA
	٠.	•••	-	٠.		٠.	
Pittsburgh		31	11	8	70	169	132
		31	_				
Pittsburgh	50	31 32	11	8	70	169	132
Pittsburgh Carolina	50 46	31 32 31	11 11	8	70 67	169 161	132 109
Pittsburgh Carolina N.Y. Rangers	50 46 48 51	31 32 31	11 11 13 15	8 3 4	70 67 66	169 161 147	132 109 123
Pittsburgh Carolina N.Y. Rangers Washington	50 46 48 51 47	31 32 31 27 23	11 11 13 15 23	8 3 4 9	70 67 66 63	169 161 147 166	132 109 123 142
Pittsburgh Carolina N.Y. Rangers Washington Columbus	50 46 48 51 47 43	31 32 31 27 23	11 11 13 15 23 20	8 3 4 9 1 6	70 67 66 63 47	169 161 147 166 149	132 109 123 142 173
Pittsburgh Carolina N.Y. Rangers Washington Columbus N.Y. Islanders	50 46 48 51 47 43 48	31 32 31 27 23 17	11 13 15 23 20 24	8 3 4 9 1 6	70 67 66 63 47 40	169 161 147 166 149 105	132 109 123 142 173 122

#### **WESTERN CONFERENCE** GP W L OT PTS GF GA

			_				
Colorado	47	34	9	4	72	191	135
Minnesota	45	30	12	3	63	174	134
St. Louis	47	28	14	5	61	167	131
Nashville	49	28	17	4	60	150	138
Dallas	47	26	19	2	54	141	142
Winnipeg	47	21	18	8	50	137	140
Chicago	49	18	24	7	43	120	163
Arizona	48	12	32	4	28	108	180
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GA
Calgary	46	27	13	6	60	158	110
		27 28		_	60 59	158 162	
Vegas	48		17	3			143
Vegas Edmonton	48 47	28	17 18	3	59	162	143 149
Vegas Edmonton Los Angeles	48 47 48	28 26	17 18 17	3	59 55	162 154	143 149
Vegas Edmonton Los Angeles Anaheim	48 47 48 49	28 26 24	17 18 17 17	3 3 7	59 55 55	162 154 138	143 149 135 141
Calgary Vegas Edmonton Los Angeles Anaheim Vancouver San Jose	48 47 48 49 49	28 26 24 23	17 18 17 17 21	3 3 7 9	59 55 55 55	162 154 138 144	143 149 135 141 135
Vegas Edmonton Los Angeles Anaheim Vancouver	48 47 48 49 49	28 26 24 23 22	17 18 17 17 21 21	3 3 7 9 6	59 55 55 55 55	162 154 138 144 126	143 149 135 141 135 145

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Winnipeg 6, Minnesota 3 Anaheim at Calgary, late

#### Florida at Carolina, late Colorado at Vegas, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m. Ottawa at Buffalo, 7p.m. Pittsburgh at Toronto, 7p.m. St. Louis at Montreal, 7p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 7p.m. Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m. Seattle at Winnipeg, 8p.m. Columbus at Chicago, 8:30p.m. Anaheim at Edmonton, 9p.

#### FRIDAY'S GAMES Nashville at Carolina, 7p.m. Florida at Minnesota, 8p.m. Dallas at Chicago, 8:30p.m

Los Angeles at Vegas, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS St. Louis 5, Ottawa 2 Tampa Bay 6, New Jersey 3 Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 4, (OT) N.Y. Rangers 2, Boston 1 (SO) Washington 4, Nashville 1 Calgary 6, Columbus 2 Dallas 4, Colorado 1

#### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED 1. Gonzaga (21-2) at Pepperdine. Next: vs. Santa Clara, Saturday. 2. Auburn (23-2) vs. Vanderbilt. Next: at Florida, Saturday.

3. Arizona (22-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon State, Thursday.

4. Kentucky (21-5) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Saturday. 5. Purdue (22-4) at Northwestern. Next: 6. Kansas (21-4) did not play. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.
7 .Baylor (21-4) at #11 Texas Tech. Next: vs. TCCU, Saturday.

8. Providence (21-3) did not play. Next: at Butler, Sunday.

9. Duke (22-4) did not play. Next: vs. Florida St., Saturday. 10. Villanova (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday. 11. Texas Tech (19-6) vs. #7 Baylor.
Next: at #20 Texaws, Saturday.
12. Illinois (18-7) lost to Rutgers 70-59. Next: at #19 Michigan State, Saturday.

13. UCLA (17-5) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Thursday 14. Houston (20-4) did not play. Next: vs. UCF, Thursday. 15. Wisconsin (20-5) did not play.

Next: vs. Michigan, Sunday. 16. Tennessee (19-6) did not play. Next: at #23 Arkansas, Saturday. 17. Southern Cal (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Thursday. 18. Ohio State (16-6) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa, Saturday. 19. Michigan State (18-7) did not play. Next: vs. #12 Illinois Saturday. **20. Texas (19-7) did not play. Next:** vs. #11 Texas Tech, Saturday.

21. Murray State (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Austin Peay, Thursday. 22. Wyoming (21-4) did not play.

Next: vs. Air Force, Saturday. 23. Arkansas (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. #16 Tennessee, Saturday. 24. UConn (17-7) vs. Seton Hall. Next: vs. Xavier, Saturday. 25. Alabama (17-9) beat Mississippi St. 80-75. Next: at #4 Kentucky, Saturday.

#### WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

Albany (NY) 68, Binghamton 67 Boston U. 78, Holy Cross 65 Colgate 100, Army 90 Hartford 75, Maine 65 Lafayette 77, Loyola (Md.) 68 Manhattan 74, Fairfield 67 St. Bonaventure 83, UMass 71 UMBC 95, Stony Brook 84 Vermont 71, New Hampshire 50 SOUTH

Florida Gulf Coast 82, Kennesaw St. 76 Jacksonville 67, Stetson 45 Miami 70, Louisville 63 Radford 71, Campbell 67 SC-Upstate 60, Presbyterian 55 Wofford 65, The Citadel 58 MIDWEST St. John's 86, Xavier 73

MEN'S INDIVIDO POINTS/GAME	UAL LEADERS SCHOOL	PPG
		23.9
Peter Kiss	Bryant Detroit Mercy	
Antoine Davis		23.4
Keegan Murray	Iowa	23.3
Darius McGhee	Liberty	22.9
Max Abmas	Oral Roberts	22.8
Terrell Brown	Washington	22.1
Bryce Hamilton	UNLV	21.8

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. South Carolina (23-1) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn, Thursday. 2. Stanford (21-3) did not play. Next: at Oregon State, Friday.
3. Louisville (22-2) did not play.
Next: at #24 North Carolina, Thursday. 4. NC State (23-3)did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Thursday.
5. Indiana (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern, Thursday 6. Iowa State (21-3) at #14 Texas. Next: 7. Baylor (19-5) vs. TCU. Next: at TCU,

Saturday. 8. Arizona (18-4) did not play. Next: at Washington, Friday.

9. Michigan (20-4) did not play.
Next: vs. #13 Maryland, Sunday. 10. UConn (17-5) did not play. Next: at Xavier, Friday. 11. LSU (21-4) did not play. Next: at Mississippi State, Thursday. 12. Tennessee (21-4) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Thursday 13. Maryland (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. #18 Ohio State, Thursday 14. Texas (17-6) vs. #6 lowa State. Next: at West Virginia, Sunday, 15. Oklahoma (20-5) lost to Texas Tech 97-87. Next: at #6 Iowa State, Saturday. 16. Georgia Tech (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. #19 Notre Dame, Thursday. 17. Florida (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday.

18. Ohio State (19-4) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Thursday. 19. Notre Dame (19-6) did not play. Next: at #16 Georgia Tech, Thursday. 20. BYU (21-2) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia (17-7) did not play. Next: 22. lowa (16-7) did not play.Next: vs. #5 Indiana, Saturday.

23. Virginia Tech (19-6) did not play. Next: at #3 Louisville, Sunday

24. North Carolina (19-5) did not play. Next: at #3 Louisville, Thursday. 25. Florida Gulf Coast (22-2) did not play. Next: vs. Kennesaw St., Thursday.

#### SOCCER

**UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE** WEDNESDAY'S FIRST LEG Liverpool 2, Inter Milan 0 RB Salzburg 1, Bayern Munich 1
TUESDAY'S FIRST LEG Chelsea vs. Lille (France), 3n.m. Villarreal vs. Juventus, 3p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23 FIRST LEG Atlético Madrid vs. Man United. 3n.m. Benfica vs. Ajax, 3p.m.

#### **ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE** SATURDAY'S MATCHES

West Ham vs. Newcastle, 7:30a.m. Arsenal vs. Brentford, 10a.m. Aston Villa vs. Watford, 10a.m. Brighton vs. Burnley, 10a.m. Crystal Palace vs. Chelsea, 10a.m. Liverpool vs. Norwich, 10a.m. Southampton vs. Everton, 10a.m. Man City vs. Tottenham, 12:30p.m.

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE **s-Thursday:** vs. Czech Rep., 11 p.m. at Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, Calif. s-Feb. 20: vs. New Zealand, 3 p.m. at Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, Calif. s-Feb. 23: vs. Iceland, 9 p.m. at Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas s-SheBelieves Cup

#### Edmonton 5, Los Angeles 2 **TENNIS**

ATP DELRAY BEACH OPEN At Delray Beach (Fla.) Stadium & Tennis Center, outdoors-hardcourt MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

Tommy Paul d. Denis Istomin, 6-2, 6-0 #5Sebastian Korda vs. Andreas Seppi, late Stefan Kozlov d. Steve Johnson, 6-1, 6-3

**ATP RIO OPEN** At Jockey Club Brasileiro, Rio de Janeiro, outdoors-Red clay MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 7-16 #3 Diego Schwartzman vs. Pedro Martinez, late Fabio Fognini d. #4 Pablo Carreno Busta, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3. Pablo Andujar d. #8 Albert Ramos-Vinolas, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3. Federico Coria d. Fernando Verdasco, 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-4.

**ATP OPEN 13 PROVENCE** At Palais des Sports, Marseille, France, indoors-hardcourt

mdoors-nardcourt
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#2 Andrey Rublev d. Richard Gasquet,
4-6, 6-3, 7-6(3).
#4 Aslan Karatsev d. Holger Vitus
Nodskov Rune, 6-3, 7-6(1). Nodskov Rune, 6-3, 7-6(1). #5 Ilya Ivashka d. Stefano Travaglia,

6-1, 6-3. MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32 Lucas Pouille d. #6Tallon Griekspoor, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1. #9 Benjamin Bonzi d. Kamil Majchrzak, 7-6(1), 6-4.

ATP QATAR EXXONMOBIL OPEN At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, Doha, Qatar, outdoors-hardcourt MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

#1 Denis Shapovalov d. Alex Molcan, 6-4, 6-0. 6-4, 6-0.

#4 Marin Cilic d.
Botic Van de Zandschulp, 6-3, 7-5.
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina d.
#5Daniel Evans, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.
#6 Karen Khachanov d.
Emil Ruusuvuori, 7-6(4), 6-3.
Arthur Rinderknech d.
#7 Alexander Bublik, 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-4.
Marton Fuesovics d. Wwon Soon Woo Marton Fucsovics d. Kwon Soon Woo, 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3. Nikoloz Basilashvili d. Elias Ymer, 6-4, 7-5 Roberto Bautista Agut d. Andy Murray,

**DUBAI DUTY FREE CHAMPIONSHIPS** U.A.E., outdoors-hardcourt WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

Petra Kvitova d. #1 Aryna Sa 6-4, 6-4. 6-4, 6-4.
Dayana Yastremska d.
#2 Barbora Krejcikova, 6-3, 7-6(3).
Veronika Kudermetova d.
#4 Garbine Muguruza, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.
Jelena Ostapenko d. #6 Iga Swiatek,
4-6, 6-1, 7-6(4).
#8 Ons Jabeur d. Jessica Pegula, 6-3, 6-1
Jil Teichmann d. #10 Elina Svitolina,
7-6(0), 6-2.
Marketa Vondrausova d. Narketa Vondrousova d. Varvara Gracheva, 6-2, 6-0. Simona Halep d. Elena-Gabriela Ruse,

#### WINTER OLYMPICS

MEDAL COUNT NATION S B TOT 28 24 20 19 18 17 15 14 14 14 13 13 Norway 13 8 12 ROC Germany **United States** Canada Austria Italy Netherlands Sweden China France Switzerland South Korea Slovenia Finland Australia Hungary New Zealand Czech Republic Belarus 2 Slovakia Spain 1 Ukraine Belgium Estonia Latvia Poland

**WEDNESDAY'S MEDALISTS** ALPINE SKIING, Men's Slalo G: Clement Noel, France

S: Johannes Strolz, Austria B: Sebastian Foss-Solevaag, Norway BIATHLON, Women's 4x6km Relay G: Sweden S: ROC CROSS-COUNTRY, Men's Team Sprint G: Norway (Erik Valnes, Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo) S: Finland (livo Niskanen, Joni Maki)
B: ROC (Alexander Bolshunov, Alexander Terentev)

Women's Team Sprint Classic G: Germany (Katharina Hennig, Victoria Carl) S: Sweden (Maja Dahlqvist, Jonna Sundling) B: ROC (Yulia Stupak, Natalia Nepry-

FREESTYLE SKIING, Men's Aerials G: Guangpu Qi, China S: Oleksandr Abramenko, Ukraine B: Ilia Burov, ROC Men's Freeski Slopestyle G: Alexander Hall, United States S: Nicholas Goepper, United States B: Jesper Tiader, Sweden SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING. Men's 5000m Relay
G: Canada S: South Korea B: Italy

Women's 1500m G: Minjeong Choi, South Korea S: Arianna Fontana, Italy B: Suzanne Schulting, Netherlands WEDNESDAY'S SCORES MEN'S CURLING

China 6, Switzerland 5 Britain 8, ROC 6 Italy 10. Denmark 3 WOMEN'S CURLING Canada 7, United States 6 Switzerland 8, South Korea 4 China 8, Britain 4 South Korea 8, Denmark 7 Japan 10, United States 7 Sweden 8, ROC 5 China 11, Canada 9 (Extra Ends) ICE HOCKEY

Men's Quarterfinals Slovakia 3, U.S. 2 (SOlovakia 1-0, SO) ROC 3. Denmark 1 Finland 5, Switzerland 1 Sweden 2, Canada 0 Men's Semifinals Thu: Finland vs Slovakia 11:10 p.m. Fri: ROC vs Sweden, 8:10 a.m. Saturday's finals Bronze Medal, 8:10 a.m. Gold Medal, 11:10 p.m.

SLOVAKIA 3, U.S. 2 (SO) Slovakia 1 0 1 0 U.S. 1 1 0 0 (1) - 3 (0) - 2 FIRST: 1. Slovakia, Jurai Slafkovsky (Peter Ceresnak, Pavol Regenda), 11:45. 2, U.S., Nick Abruzzese (Matty

Beniers, Steven Kampfer), 19:14. Beniers, Steven Kampier), 19:14.
Penalties: None.
SECOND: 3, U.S., Sam Hentges (Nick Perbix, Nathan Smith), 28:56.
Penalties: Matty Beniers, U.S. (slashing);
Character of the Control of Samuel Knazko, Slo (delayi of game).

THIRD: 4. Slovakia. Marek Hrivik (Michal Cajkovsky, Libor Hudacek), 59:16. Penalties: Martin Gernat, Slovakia (tripping); Peter Cehlarik, Slovakia (delaying the game); Samuel Takac, Slovakia (high sticking). **OVERTIME:** No Scoring, Penalties. **SHOOTOUT:** U.S. 0 (Brendan Brisson NG. Sean Farrell NG. Matt Knies NG. Nathan Smith NG, Andy Miele NG), Slov 1 (Libor Hudacek NG, Michal Cajkovsky NG, Michal Kristof NG, Peter Cehlarik G). Shots on Goal: United States 10-6-12-7 0—35. Slovakia 8-13-11-4-1—37. GOALIES: U.S., Drew Commesso Strauss Mann. Slo, Patrik Rybar, Bran-islav Konrad.

Women's Medal Games **Bronze:** Finland 4, Switzerland 0 **Gold:** Canada vs U.S., late

Gofman, Russia. Dustin McCrank, Canada. Nikita Shalagin, Russia.

Referee: Tobias Biork, Sweden, Roman

COLLEGE BASK	ETB	ALL THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at Penn State	6	Minnesota
Buffalo		at Eastern Michigan
Towson	3	at NC Wimington
at Appalachian St		Troy
at Iowa	51/2	Michigan
at Robert Morris	15	IUPUI
South Alabama	1	at Coastal Carolina
at South Florida	1	East Carolina
at Cincinnati	21/2	Wichita State
at Charleston (S		JMU
at Yngstown St.	4	Illinois-Chicago
at Georgia State	91/2	Ga. Southern
at Marshall	1	Old Dominion
at Murray State Middle Tennessee	20 4½	Austin Peay at Florida Int'l
Drexel	71/2	at Wm. & Marv
North Texas	2	at Florida Atlantic
Delaware	31/2	at Elon
at Akron	121/2	Northern Illinois
at Chattanooga	11	NC Greensboro
at Arizona	27	Oregon State
at Sam Houston	2	Abilene Christian
at Louisiana Tech	91/2	UTEP
at W. Kentucky	81/2	Charlotte
at Houston	14	UCF
Oregon	31/2	at Arizona State
Colorado State	7	at New Mexico
Colorado Santa Clara	11/2 41/2	at California
at DePaul	3	at Loyola Marymt Creighton
at UCSB	51/2	CS Fullerton
at St. Mary's (Ca)	31/2	San Francisco
at Stanford	5	Utah
at UCLA		Washington State
at USC	91/2	Washington
Nevada	71/2	at San Jose State

NBA			THUR	SDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U		ERDOG
at Charlotte	off	(off)		Miami
at Brooklyn	off	(off)	Wash	nington
at New Orleans	off	(off)		Dallas
at Milwaukee	6	(223)	Phila	delphia
at LA Clippers	off	(off)	Н	ouston
<b>ALL-STAR SATU</b>				
THREE-POINT	CONT	EST O	DDS	
Patty Mills		G	Brk	+450
Luke Kennard		G	LAC	+500
Fred VanVleet		G	Tor	+500
Zach LaVine		G	Chi	+550
Trae Young		G	Atl	+550

ALL-STAR SATURDAY NIGHT				
THREE-POINT CONTES	TO	DDS		
Patty Mills	G	Brk	+450	
Luke Kennard	G	LAC	+500	
Fred VanVleet	G	Tor	+500	
Zach LaVine	G	Chi	+550	
Trae Young	G	Atl	+550	
Desmond Bane	G	Mem	+600	
CJ McCollum	G	NO	+750	
Karl-Anthony Towns	С	Min	+1100	
<b>DUNK CONTEST ODDS</b>				
Jalen Green	G	Hou	+200	
Obi Toppin	F	NY	+205	
Cole Anthony	G	Orl	+300	
Juan Toscano-Anderson	F	GS	+340	
source: draftkings.con	1			

NHL		THURS	DAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
St. Louis	-250	at Montreal	+202
at Buffalo	-126	Ottawa	+105
at Toronto	-137	Pittsburgh	+114
Washington	-182	at Philadelphia	+150
at NY Rangers	-205	Detroit	+168
at NY Islanders	-120	Boston	+100
at Winnipeg	-178	Seattle	+146
at Chicago	-152	Columbus	+126
at Edmonton	-205	Anaheim	+168
at San Jose	-120	Vancouver	+100
For the latest of	dds,	go to	
FanDuel Sports	sbook	,	
https://sports	book.	fanduel.com/	



Coach Eteri Tutberidze, left, and athlete Kamila Valieva, of the Russian Olympic Committee, arrive for a training session Feb. 13 in Beijing. NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

#### WINTER OLYMPICS

# Valieva case boosts drive to raise age limit at Olympics

Associated Press

BEIJING — The doping case involving Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva has led to many more questions than answers.

Some skaters think it's time to ask another: Should a 15-year-old be in the Olympics at all?

"You want these athletes to have an opportunity to have this be a profession, not a one-year run at it," Mariah Bell, at 25 the oldest U.S. national champion in nearly a century, said after skating Tuesday.

"If we had an age (minimum) limit, I think it would promote that idea of longevity and somebody being 25 wouldn't be shocking at an Olympics."

Valieva was allowed to skate Tuesday in the short program partly because her age gives her extra rights as a "protected person" in a doping case. It comes as some skating officials push to raise the minimum age for her event from 15 to 17 in time for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics. Bell suggested a minimum of 18.

Reformers argue a change would protect the wellbeing of child athletes and reduce the risk of injuries from straining the body into ever-more spectacular jumps.

"I think that (the Valieva case) really will push this forward and hopefully it will also put this question forward to other sports

federations," Norwegian Skating Federation president Mona Adolfsen, who supports the change, told The Associated Press.

Valieva, she added, "is a child, so whatever happened, we feel sorry for

The issue is expected to go to a vote at the International Skating Union congress in June. It's unclear if it will pass. Russia is opposed and the United States and Canada declined to say how they'll vote.

The Valieva doping case has put the spotlight on Russian coach Eteri Tutberidze, who transformed the sport with a "Quad Squad" performing risky but high-scoring quadruple jumps. Her skaters often have blinkand-you'll-miss-it careers, and it's not unusual to retire at 18 or 19, sometimes with severe injuries. Almost all quads ever landed in women's international competitions were performed by under-18s.

"If they raise the age, the motivation to create a skater who has longevity is higher." Swiss skater Alexia Paganini said. "You are forced to think about a technique that can be maintained throughout your entire adult career."

Others argue younger skaters deserve the limelight and shouldn't have to wait for an Olympic chance. Raising the minimum could mean more cases like that of Alexandra Trusova, now

one of Valieva's teammates in Beijing. Trusova won the world junior title in 2018 at the age of 13, and her score would also have won the senior world title that year, but she wasn't eligible.

Figure skating has long struggled to balance artistic performances against athleticism in its often-disputed scoring system. Adolfsen argues the artistry is what connects best with the public, and that comes with experience.

"I hope that the development will be that it's possible to learn the quads also for the women later, but maybe in the big picture that's not the most important thing in figure skating," Adolfsen said. "They remember (1984 and 1988 Olympic champion) Katarina Witt still, and that's not because of the difficult jumps. It was because of the performance."

Age affects male and female skaters differently. Men tend to develop later and have longer careers, but still face injury risks. Only six of 30 skaters in the women's short program Tuesday were also at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics. The men's event had twice as many returnees from four years ago, and Michal Brezina of the Czech Republic skated at his fourth Olympics.

Adolfsen is concerned about other sports, too, and would ideally like the same minimum age for all Olympic athletes.

#### IN BRIEF

# Michigan reworks Harbaugh's deal

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh has agreed to a reworked five-year contract with the school that runs through the 2026

The announcement of a new deal comes two weeks after Harbaugh interviewed to fill the head coaching vacancy with the NFL's Vikings.

Financial terms of Harbaugh's new deal with his almat mater weren't released by the school. In a news release Wednesday, Michigan said the terms and length of the deal Harbaugh, 58, signed in January 2021 were altered to include an additional year.

Last season, the Wolverines (12-2) snapped a eight-game losing streak to rival Ohio State and won the Big Ten for the first time since 2004 before losing to eventual national champion Georgia in the semifinals of the College Football Playoff.

Baseball: Negotiations aimed at ending the lockout will resume Thursday. The players' association notified management that it's ready to respond to the offer MLB made last weekend, proposals that were received coolly by the union. Baseball's ninth work stoppage, its first since 1995, enters its 78th day Thursday, one day after spring training workouts had been scheduled to start. Clubs gave the union 16 documents totaling 130 pages. ... Former All-Star OF Juan Soto, 35, confirmed to ESPN that the Nationals offered him a 13-year, \$350 million extension before the lockout.

NFL: The Cowboys paid a confidential settlement of \$2.4 million after four members of their cheerleading squad accused the team's longtime senior VP for

public relations and communications Richard Dalrymple of voyeurism in their locker room as they undressed during a 2015 event at AT&T Stadium, ESPN reported. Each of the women received \$399,523.27 after the incident. Dalrymple, who denied the allegations Monday, continued working for the Cowboys for nearly six years after the settlement. ... The NFL hired a law firm that includes former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch to defend it and its teams in Brian Flores' race discrimination lawsuit. Lynch, the attorney general in the latter part of the Obama administration, will work with Brad Karp, chairman at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. Karp previously has worked for the league in concussion cases. ... QB Joe Burrow suffered a sprained MCL during the second half of the Bengals' loss to the Rams in the Super Bowl. Burrow, who played through the injury, won't need surgery. ... The Falcons released LB Dante Fowler Jr. Fowler, 27, who had a team-high 4 ½ sacks last season, had one year left on his contract.

Soccer: Vlatko Andonovski earned \$357,597 over his first full year as the U.S. women's coach, less than 28% of the \$1,291,539 that went to men's coach Gregg Berhalter. The figures were revealed in the U.S. Soccer Federation's tax filing for the year ending on March 31, 2021. ... Roberto Firmino scored in the 75th minute and Mohamed Salah added an insurance goal eight minutes later to lift Liverpool over host Inter Milan in the first leg of a Champions League last-16 match. In other first-leg action, Kingsley Coman scored in the 90th minute to help Bayern Munich salvage a 1-1 draw against host FC Salzburg. The return legs are scheduled for March 8.



"Obviously not the result we wanted. There really aren't words that can make them feel any better. But it was an unbelievable experience coaching this group. The strides we made in a short period of time made a big, big difference."

- David Quinn, U.S. coach



The United States' Aaron Ness leaves the ice as Slovakia's players celebrate behind him after a men's quarterfinal hockey

#### Hockey

from Page 1

the muscular Slovaks on the ropes but just couldn't finish them.

"We didn't play how we played the first three games," said Sam Hentges, who scored what could have been the winning goal for the US. "It's as simple as that. That's why we lost."

The US, which trailed for only 11 minutes during the tournament, fell behind on a rocket by Juraj Slafkovsky, Slovakia's 17-year-old

wonderchild. But Harvard junior Nick Abruzzese drew the Americans even with a bit of close stickwork in the final minute of the first period, and when Hentges put them ahead midway through the second, they were poised to deliver the knockout.

Twice the US went on the power play in the third period — including a two-man advantage for 1:38 — and twice it came up with

"We got the five-onthree and we just didn't do anything with it," said Quinn. "That really was

the difference in the game. Obviously we get a goal and we're in a much better position.

Still, the Americans had two more chances to finish Slovakia off. They went on the power play again with 4:21 to play and they were looking at a vacant cage with 1:33 left. Nothing. The Slovaks, who'd struggled all game to get in close, played for an outside shot and a fortunate rebound.

They got one, and captain Marek Hrivik popped it in from the crease with 44 seconds remaining.

"I wish I could have got my glove on it, but that's hockey," said US goalie Strauss Mann. "Bounces happen, and it just sucks that it happened at that part of the game."

There were more chances in overtime, in which the US outshot its rival, 7-4. Still nothing. So it went to the lottery that is the shootout, and a deft deke by Peter Cehlarik, the former Bruins forward, that finished matters.

"Did we win?" wondered Slovak coach Craig Ramsay, a former Boston assistant.

"Have we won this thing?" Yes, indeed. The Slovaks

are on to the medal round for the first time since 2010 and a Friday date with the Finns, who blew out Switzerland, 5-1, in their quarterfinal. And the Yanks are on the plane back home, their dream of a most improbable gold dashed.

This is our first bad game," mused Ben Meyers. "Now we are done."

The medal round was set up nicely for the US, which would have met the Swedes, who blanked Canada, 2-0. And the Americans might not have had to face the Russians in the

The defending champions have looked wobbly so far. They edged the Swiss, 1-0, lost, 6-5, to the Czechs, and went down to the final five minutes in their quarterfinal with the Danes, who are competing in their first Games. If Russia loses to the Finns, few will be shocked.

With the rosters bereft of NHLers, this was a tournament that was up for grabs even more than the last one since the league withdrew its players so late before the Games.

USA Hockey put this team together by phone and email and did an impressive job of selling 15 collegians on the idea of leaving their varsities in midseason amid a pandemic and flying halfway around the world to represent their country against significant odds. By any measure, they overachieved by getting to within a bounce of the puck of the medal round.

"Obviously not the result we wanted," said Quinn as his devastated players fought back tears. "There really aren't words that can make them feel any better. But it was an unbelievable experience coaching this group. The strides we made in a short period of time made a big, big difference."

The NHLers likely will be back on the scene four vears from now when the Games will be in Milan and the pandemic presumably will be past. But a goodly number of players from this US squad may well be on the next one.

Their dream denied may just be a dream deferred.

"They played outstanding this entire tournament," Kampfer said. "These young guys have a great future ahead of them and I think they know that."

#### **UConn**

from Page 1

said. "It's just so good to see her and her confidence getting back. We're all happy for her. As Azzi [Fudd] said, we're going to be a nasty team when she comes back."

Auriemma added Bueckers was set to meet that day with Dr. Robert Arciero, chief of the Sports Medicine Division of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at UConn Health, to come up with a plan for next steps.

"We'll see where we go from here," Auriemma said. "Today was Day One and who knows. We'll see how she feels tomorrow." Bueckers has missed the

last 16 games after suffering the injury in the final seconds of the Notre Dame game Dec. 5. She underwent surgery on Dec. 13. The program has been

optimistic that Bueckers could return to finish out the season. Auriemma says Bueckers has been impatient to get back to the court.

"All she does is complain that she can't go longer, she can't stay out there more," Auriemma said. "I'm trying to take it slower than she wants it to go."

The Huskies have five regular season games remaining before the Big East and NCAA tournaments in March. Bueckers is one of UConn's seven rotation players who have missed at least two games this season due to injury.

With so much personnel fluctuation, and Bueckers' reinsertion into a team that looks quite different than it did in early December, it's fair to expect an adjustment period once she gets back.

"I've got to believe that if she gets out and plays a

little bit with us, that there's going to be some things that she's going to want to do that maybe she's going to find 'not yet.' And then things that are just going to come natural for her like they always do," Auriemma said. 'So I guess we'll see. I don't think we're going to see the national player of the year Paige in two days. But hopefully, that's coming."

After missing the last three games, senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa (groin) was also seen practicing Wednesday. Auriemma said she "did a little bit," "looked rusty" and that they'll see how she's feeling over the next few days.

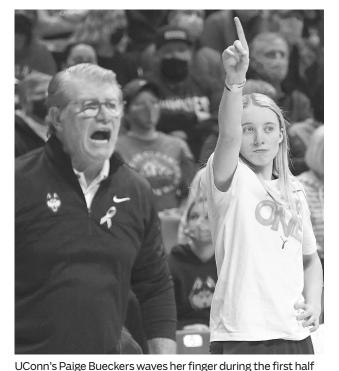
Freshman Caroline Ducharme (head) and Mühl (foot) did not participate in the open portion of practice. Auriemma said Ducharme, who has been out the last four games, "did a little bit" earlier in the day and that they're "hoping she can do a little bit more [Thursday]," at which point they'll determine whether she's ok to play Friday.

Mühl is still dealing with the lingering foot issue that sidelined her for three games in December. Auriemma said she practiced about 45 minutes Wednesday

"It's still kind of bothering me, especially after this week full of games and practices and everything but it's nothing crazy, just bothering me a little bit, trying to limit me as much as possible," Mühl said.

Auriemma seems optimistic that the health of the whole group, Buckers included, is "trending in the right direction."

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@ courant.com



of the team's game against DePaul on Friday in Storrs. JESSICA HILL/AP

#### **COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

## Champagnie scores 27 to carry St. John's past Xavier, 86-73

Associated Press

Julian Champagnie scored 27 points and Tareq Coburn scored 13 points and St. John's beat Xavier 86-73 on Wednesday night at Cincinnati.

Aaron Wheeler added 11 points and eight rebounds and Montez Mathis scored 10 for St. John's (14-11, 6-8 Big East Conference).

Jack Nunge had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Musketeers (17-8, 7-7). Paul Scruggs added 16 points. Zach Freemantle had 10 points.

Manhattan 74: Fairfield 67: At Bridgeport, Jose Perez had 21 points as Manhattan won the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference game at Webster Bank Arena.

Ant Nelson had 18 points and six rebounds for Manhattan (13-11, 6-9 MAAC). Josh Roberts added 13 points and 13 rebounds. Perez hit 11 of 12 free throws.

Supreme Cook had 17 points for the Stags (12-14, 6-9). Jesus Cruz added 13 points and Chris Maidoh had 10 points.

Logano from Page 1

because of the attitude that 'it's not good enough.' We've got to keep that

Though it's easy around here to think of Logano as "the kid from Middletown," climbing into a quarter midget car, he is now 31, a family man, a battle-tested veteran in his 15th year in NASCAR, his 10th with Team Penske, a leader of his team and in his sport. He is one of the movers behind the new drivers council, a group aiming to make sure drivers have a voice in the decision-making process.

Logano and his wife, Brittany, welcomed their third child, and first daughter, Emilia Love Logano, to the world on Feb. 8.

"She's dong great, Mama's doing great," Logano said. "We're figuring out what life is like with three kids. We're adjusting, but we're doing Two days earlier, Logano drove the

new Next Gen to a victory at the first

Busch Light Clash at the Los Angeles

Coliseum in the first exhibition race

of the season.

"Any time you win a race, it adds a lot of confidence to your team, boosts morale, gets everybody jacked up for what's ahead," Logano said. "To go out to a new track, new car and figure out a way to win is very special, for 'Clash' victories, it's probably the biggest one you could ever ask for, with the amount of eyeballs on it."

As he worked his way toward the Daytona 500, Logano is reminded of another crash. Leading on the last lap a year ago, his car was nudged by Brad Keselowski, then his Penske teammate, touching off an eight-car wreck, opening the way for Michael McDowell to win.

Logano has 27 Cup victories, winning the championship in 2018. At Daytona, he has three top-five and six top-10 finishes, becoming the youngest to win it in 2015, but he wants

"The hunger is pretty high, I can promise you that," Logano said. "It's been too long, and we've been so close. Last year being in the lead going into Turn 3 and ending in a ball of fire kind of hurt. But there is nothing like wining the Daytona 500, it's the Great

American Race, the hype around it, the full out grand stand, so many sponsors, friends, family, everyone's here. And no one cares about who finishes second. Do you know who finished second last year? I don't. And I was in the race, and I don't. It's all about the win.

"I try to forget about [the 2021 accident], but every time I turn on the TV it's on. You've got to keep moving forward. I can't cage what happened last year affect what happens this year."

Logano lives in North Carolina, but still gets back to visit Connecticut, where his parents still have a home. Last year, he returned to the Silver City Raceway in Meriden, where it all began for him.

"We repaved it and my son, Hudson, got to drive my first quarter midget car out there, which was super special," Logano said, "and I got to meet all the kids and say hello. I'd do something like that again. As soon as you land, you just feel at home. I still love going up there."

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# Safety Tip of the Day

In inclement weather, it is even more dangerous for a young driver to be on the road due to their inexperience handling the car in those situations. Teach your child how to confidently handle weather challenges.

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# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

#### **SHORTS**

#### Gold-silver for US in men's slopestyle



Shred, white and flew. Innovative American freestyle skiers Alex Hall and Nick Goepper landed jaw-dropping tricks on the Secret Garden slopestyle course and won the gold and silver medals at the Beijing Olympics on Wednesday. Hall, left, clinched the gold on the first of three runs when he

defied gravity with a trick called "right double 10 pretzel one." He spun 900 degrees one way and, as G-forces took over, stopped the spin in midair and spun 180 degrees the other way. He stuck the landing and skied in backward to the finish, earning a score of 90.01. Goepper was so impressive on his second run that he clinched the silver with a score of 86.48. American men have won six of nine medals since slopestyle made its Olympic debut in 2014. Goepper added to his silver from the 2018 Pyeongchang Games and bronze from the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Hall's gold medal was the eighth for the United States in Beijing. "I'm just stoked I did it, my best slopestyle ever — and for the world to see that," said the 23-year-old Hall, who was born in Alaska, grew up in Switzerland and lives in Utah.

#### **Bengals give Taylor 5-year extension**



Zac Taylor, who led the Bengals to the Super Bowl in his third season as coach, was signed to a five-year contract extension, the team announced Wednesday. Financial terms weren't disclosed. Taylor was 6-25-1 in his first two seasons leading the Bengals, his first head coaching job. They improved

to 10-7 in 2021 and went on an improbable run through playoffs before losing 23-20 to the Rams in the Super Bowl on Sunday. The 38-year-old Taylor is now signed through the 2026 season. He had one year left on his previous contract. Taylor said Wednesday he was "very appreciative." "Of course, this isn't all about me," he said. "This is about all the people in the building who are working toward a really solid future for all of us. And so I'm excited for everybody, you know, because I certainly feel like the future is bright. There's a lot to build on." Taylor said the deal got done Tuesday. "It didn't take long," he said of the contract process. "We were on the same page. I'm happy here. My family is happy here. I love coming into the build-

#### Smith resigns as High Point coach



Tubby Smith announced that he's stepping down as coach of the High Point University men's basketball team. Smith, who once won a national championship while coaching at Kentucky, will be replaced at his alma mater by his son and current associate head coach G.G. Smith for the remainder of

this season and next season. High Point said in a release that Smith feels after contracting COVID-19 for a second time in less than a year and having been away from the program for an extended period that the timing is right for this change. Smith will remain at High Point to assist with alumni, community engagement, fundraising for athletics and other university priorities. The 70-yearold Smith struggled to find success at High Point. In four seasons, the Panthers are 45-68 with Smith at the helm, including an 11-15 mark this season. Before High Point, Smith served as coach at Memphis, Texas Tech, Minnesota, Kentucky, Georgia, and Tulsa, where he has complied a 642-370 record overall. He led Kentucky to the 1998 NCAA title. -Associated Press

**NASCAR SEASON PREVIEW** 

# Let's get this show on the road

Top auto racing series charts audacious direction for 2022

By Jenna Fryer Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Kyle Larson balanced a car seat on a suitcase while the thick strap from another bag pulled tight around his neck. Both his kids were spinning on the metal stanchions outside LAX and Larson couldn't find the bus to the rental

"Just what a champion looks like, huh?" he laughed.

The NASCAR champ. He's just like us. NASCAR throws its version of the Super Bowl on Sunday to open its 2022 season. The Daytona 500 is the official kickoff, though NASCAR opened two weeks prior to "The Great American Race" with a star-stud-ded, experimental exhibition inside the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

NASCAR's decision to move the event away from Daytona International Speedway, its only home since its 1979, angered purists but it was a smashing success and NASCAR must now figure out how take advantage of the buzz through Daytona and the next 37 weeks of racing.

Larson will be a key player in NASCAR's push to widen its reach to a younger and more racially diverse audience. The reigning champion returned to the series last year to drive for Hendrick Motorsports following a nearly yearlong 2020 suspension for using

Larson had an unbelievable return, winning 10 times, the Cup Series title and the All-Star race, all while also crisscrossing the country to run a sprint car in his spare time. Larson is a fan favorite and represents the kind of grass-roots racer NASCAR fans have long embraced.

But many others relate to the 29-year-old for other reasons: He's a father and a family man, a symbol of redemption, a changing of the guard. Larson is also half-Japanese and the first Cup champion to emerge from NASCAR's diversity program.

He will again visit pockets of the country where folks don't make it to many NASCAR races as part of his packed 2022 extracurricular schedule. But his goals? Larson hasn't

"Ultimately the goal is always to win the championship," Larson said. "As far as numbers of wins, I don't ever really set a goal until we get a month or so into the season. That's when you get an idea of where yours cars are stacking up against the competition and what sort of potential you have.

Even that's not a foolproof method this

This season at last marks the debut of the Next Gen, a new car years in development and built to address many headaches. The Next Gen was a collaborative project between NASCAR and its stakeholders and the car is designed to cut costs, help smaller teams close the gap on the big guys, make



After winning 10 races and the NASCAR Cup in his return from a suspension last season, Kyle Larson has emerged as a real fan favorite. AP FILE

it cost capable for new ownership to enter the sport and give the manufacturers greater brand identity.

The pandemic delayed the car a year and the Next Gen didn't see racing action until the Coliseum, where it ran just fine. The car held up well in car-to-car contact — "we can bump and bang," Clash winner Joey Logano declared — but its still a wildcard.

NASCAR held an industry crisis meeting in Nashville in December to hash out driver concerns about performance, and many of those same drivers now sit on a seven-person board of directors of a "Driver Advisory Council" announced last week.

The council gives the drivers an organized voice to push for tweaks or change

"Communication from drivers to other stakeholders in our industry has been a challenge for years. This will help clarify feedback from drivers," said Logano, a board member. "Safety, fan experience and a great on-track product are just some of the goals."

Fan experience will be critical as NASCAR navigates its new identity. The series has made so many changes over the last several years that many of its loyalists no longer recognize the the sport that started with Southern bootleggers outrunning the authorities in their cars full of moonshine.

The Confederate flag has been banned, and Ice Cube performed a halftime set at the Coliseum in a never-before-seen pause of a race for a hip-hop show. NASCAR has said it wants to be apolitical, but has long been intertwined with religion and politics.

The "Let's Go Brandon" derisive chant about President Joe Biden evolved from a NASCAR race, and Brandon Brown, the Xfinity Series driver at the center of the brouhaha, had an offseason faceoff with NASCAR over sponsorship associated with the LGB sensation.

Brown ultimately won't showcase the cryptocurrency associated with the chant on the car fielded by his family team in NASCAR's second-tier series.

So many NASCAR decisions seem foreign to longtime fans — an overhaul to last year's schedule put six road courses on the schedule and turned Bristol into a dirt track for its spring race — and NASCAR this year added Gateway outside St. Louis to the calendar and will continue to explore nontraditional venues after pulling off The Clash.

It's a time of change for the stock car series, which needs new fans alongside its loyal base. Steve O'Donnell, executive vice president of NASCAR and chief racing development officer, acknowledged differences between series leadership and the drivers that made discussions "tough at

But dialogue has improved since the December meeting, O'Donnell said trust has been built and the industry was buzzing with excitement as NASCAR left Los Ange-

"I really do feel like we've got a much better relationship in terms of listening, but also having an understanding when we make a certain decision, there is some reason behind it." O'Donnell said. "Because we went left, you wanted to go right, doesn't mean we didn't listen."

#### **NASCAR**

# 'Timid' approach popular for Daytona 500 qualifying

By Mark Long Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR's qualifying races likely will be tamer than

The Duel at Daytona scheduled for Thursday night — a qualifying event that splits 42 cars into two races and sets much of the starting grid for the season-opening Daytona 500 — could be a watered-down version because of a parts shortage involving the new Next Gen car.

The scarcity has left teams with a limited number of backup cars and even fewer on

"We cannot wreck this car before the 500," Petty GMS Motorsports driver Erik Jones

Jones is hardly alone in his concern. Drivers and teams for months have lamented a lack of inventory heading into stock car racing's premier event.

Team Penske has two backups built for their four-car team, which includes Ryan Blaney, Joey Logano, rookie Austin Cindric and Wood Brothers Racing's Harrison

"It is a tough thing," Blaney said. "Our inventory is not very big currently; no one's is. We used to come down here with one or two backup cars for each (driver) just in case things happen. Now we're sitting on a couple for your whole organization. That's been difficult, and you have to have that in

the back of your head." Blaney said he was driving in a practice session Tuesday and thinking, "How hard do I push my teammate to kind of see what my car will do and what his car will do without

possibly wrecking him?" He expects a similar approach in the Duel.

"I think guys are going to be pretty smart on kind of how they race; you'd hope so because everyone's kind of sitting in the same boat," Blaney said. "You have to be aware and observant. But you don't ever want to wreck your 500 car, let alone when we don't have many things to spare."

With 36 teams already locked into the 40-car field based on NASCAR's charter system, there were six drivers - Greg Biffle, Noah Gragson, Kaz Grala, Timmy Hill, Jacques Villeneuve and JJ Yeley – vying for the final four starting spots.

Two of them got in during single-lap qualifying runs Wednesday night. Those runs ended too late for this edition.

That left four drivers vying for the final two spots in those qualifying races — and dozens of others trying to keep their cars

mostly in one piece. "I think we're going to be timid for sure," Jones said. "There is going to be some point where we have to race in a Duel, learn about the car and go from there. But it's going to be an eyes-wide-open-type deal. If anything starts really getting kind of dicey or out of hand, we're going to have to be extra cautious on that side of things."

NASCAR's latest iteration of its stock car is essentially a kit car. Every team buys most of the same parts from the same vendors and then has instructions on how to put them together. Body panels and suspension pieces have been the most sparse, creating angst

The ultimate goal: the wholesale changes are expected to result in a more durable and economical car, one that could tighten the

playing field, at least to some extent. The Next Gen car debuted at the exhibition Clash two weeks ago at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Considerable cloudiness breezy and unseasonably mild. Showers, very windy at night.

Lingering showers ending, then becoming partly sunny, very breezy. LOW Turning colder in 50

**FRIDAY** 

18° the afternoon.

Mixed clouds and sun, some snow and rain showers are possible, breezy and very cool.

**SATURDAY** 

LOW

18

Mostly sunny,

breezy and very cool.

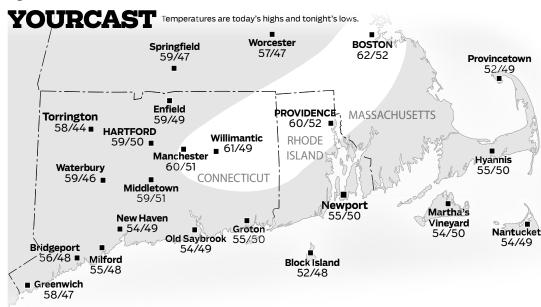
**SUNDAY** 

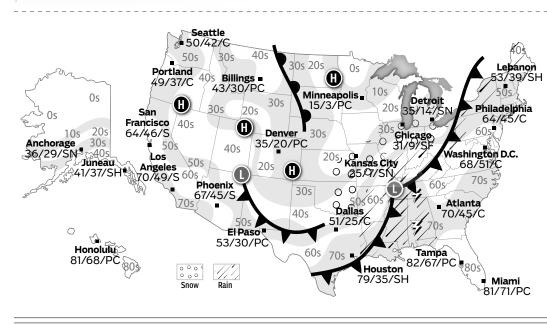
Mostly sunny and milder.

**MONDAY** 

LOW LOW 29 34







#### **OUTLOOK**

A cold front to the west will cause considerable cloudiness on Thursday. It will be unseasonably mild with high temperatures in the 50s and lower 60s. The highest temperature for the day will likely be achieved just before midnight as the front gets closer. It will also be a breezy day with southwest winds at 10 to 20 mph. The cold front will produce showers overnight along with heavy downpours and very gusty winds. Peak gusts could reach or exceed 60 mph in eastern portions of the state, while the remainder of the region will have peak gusts up to between 45 and 55 mph. -Gary Lessor

#### **ALMANAC**

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	2.26	1.71
Total this year	4.09	4.99
Snowfall In Inches		

Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) 0.0 Total this year 21.3 35.2 Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

#### **Air Quality Forecast For Today**

		<b>31</b> °
Good	Low 2	
29		
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
	Today	Tomorrow

6:44 a.m.	
0.44 d.III.	6:43 a.m.
5:25 p.m.	5:27 p.m.
6:33 p.m.	7:40 p.m.
7:36 a.m.	8:01 a.m.
	5:25 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 7:36 a.m.

Moon Phase			
Last	New	First	Full
Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 18

30-day	30-day Precipitation History In Inches			
1.2				
1.0				
0.8				
0.6				
0.4				
0.2				
0.0	1/23	1/30	2/6	2/13
Tides		High	Low	Temn

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	9:52 a.m.	3:44 a.m.	37°
	10:12 p.m.	4:17 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	11:03 a.m.	4:37 a.m.	37°
	11:23 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	
Connecticut River	1:28 a.m.	8:23 a.m.	
at Portland	1:46 p.m.	8:56 p.m.	
Madison	11:18 a.m.	5:03 a.m.	36°
	11:41 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
New Haven	11:38 a.m.	5:27 a.m.	37°
	p.m.	5:54 p.m.	
Stamford	11:42 a.m.	5:41 a.m.	37°
	p.m.	6:08 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 4.05 feet at 6:30 p.m. Boating L.I. Sound W L.I. Sound E B. I. Sound

Weather	VCloudy	VCloudy	VCloudy
Wind	SW, 15-20	SW, 15-20	SW, 15-20
Seas	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.	5-7 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	43 at 2:24 p.m	12 at 4:51 a.m
Normal for date	39	21
Record for date	72 in 1954	-24 in 1943
A year ago	44	29
Range this year	59	-2

Last

Season

3677

Normal

3936

#### AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

New Orleans

Nashville

New York

Okla. City

Omaha

Orlando

Raleigh

Pittsburgh

23 18

44 24 S

49 17 R

61 25 R

48 18 R

45 15 R

<b>NEW ENGL</b>	AND	B. 112
Bangor	48 39 SH	Baltimor
Burlington	49 21 R	Bismarcl
Caribou	43 23 R	Boise
Concord	54 43 C	Buffalo
Montpelier	48 21 R	Charlest
Mt. Wash.	34 14 SH	Cincinna
Portland	54 39 C	Clevelan
Woods Hole	53 45 PC	Indianap Jackson
NATION		Las Vega
Albany	54 33 SH	Miami B
Albuminamana	41 24 65	Milwauk

arleston cinnati ksonville Vegas ami Beach lwaukee Albuquerque 41 24 SF

34 11 I 80 62 PC St. Louis 63 41 S Salt Lake City 42 27 PC 79 73 PC 76 36 San Antonio 29 10 SF San Diego

78 45 SH Tucson 58 43 C WORLD 34 19 SF Cancun 27 15 PC Amsterdam 52 41 R Dubai 61 45 SH Dublin 83 66 PC Athens 63 25 R 90 81 T Bangkok 71 58 PC 84 71 Barbados Helsinki Beiiina 32 19 C 66 54 PC Beirut Istanbul 52 39 SH Berlin Jerusalem 68 49 S Bermuda 69 64 PC Atlantic City 60 49 PC KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

San Juan

52 46 PC London Madrid 64 39 Mexico City 86 63 S Milan 59 37 Montreal 46 16 R Moscow 37 36 S 79 66 PC Nassau 79 52 SH New Delhi Paris 55 48 S Prague 52 37 SH 84 70 Rome 59 45 SH 32 19 S 91 75

Kingston

Lisbon

88 72 PC

66 48 PC

34 26 SF Stockholm 88 70 PC Svdnev 48 34 PC Toronto 43 7 R 48 37 SH Warsaw Weather page produced by **WESTERN** CONNECTICUT

UNIVERSITY

**Heating Degree Days** Season For July 1 - Feb 16 3602 30-day Temperature History 60 50 HIGHS 40 30

2/13 Atmosphere High Low 30.73 at 1 a.m.

#### **TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL**

#### RESULTS **BOYS BASKETBALL**

**LEWIS MILLS 48, PLAINVILLE 39** PLAINVILLE (4-13): James George 1-0-2. Brady Wieczorek 1-0-2, Artem Mojica 2-0-5, MJ Bakaysa 1-0-3, Joe Vasquez 1-6-8. Cam Lamothe 7-2-16. Totals 13-11-

LEWIS MILLS (10-8): Jon Schibi 0-0-0, Charlie Joiner 2-3-8, Colby Cables 3-0-7. Brice Waldron 8-4-20, Connor Evans 5-0-13. Totals 18-7-48.

11 9 13 6 - 39 9 9 11 19 - 48 CCC-West

**FARMINGTON 58, GLASTONBURY 45** FARMINGTON (13-5): Jordan Anthony

4-0-9. Christian Harris 1-0-2. Jahkai Veal 2-0-4, Nico Augustino 2-0-4, Chad Rizzo 1-0-3, Jared Young 5-2-15, Nick Duncan 7-5-19, Caleb Smith 0-2-2. Totals 22-9-58. GLASTONBURY (4-13): Owen Peterson 2-1-5, Khaliq Young 2-0-5, Adam Molusis 2-0-4, Trey Tennyson 1-2-4, Dan Cantafi 3-0-9, Jack Hennessy 1-0-2, George Juliano 1-0-2. David Smith 2-0-4. Tyler Huff 2-2-8. Mickey Shea 0-2-2. Totals 16-7-45.

13 17 15 13 - 58 9 4 12 20 - 45

CCC-Inter

CONARD 68, E.O. SMITH 44
E.O. SMITH (7-11): Leon Lin 5-4-16, Jackson Stearns 3-2-9, Dar Jankovic 4-1-9, Noah Cardone 1-3-5, Peter Elumogo 1-3-5. CONARD (15-2): Riley Fox 15-4-38, Jalen Hamblin 8-4-20, Ryan Bushnell 2-0-4, Kyle Barnum 1-0-3, Rasheen Smiley 1-0-3.

Totals 27-8-68. 17 9 10 6 - 44 13 22 12 21 - 68

Note: Hamblin had a double-double with

11 rebounds. ENFIELD 79, HARTFORD PUBLIC 57 ENFIELD (7-10): Kaden Birkett 2-1-5, Josiah Whaley 7-2-17, Jaiden Davis 1-0-2, Nick Valente 1-0-2, Fritz-Carly Andre 0-3-3, Isaiah Plummer 4-2-12, Josiah Upson 1-2-4, Alex Herron 5-6-16, Tighe Thebo-

deau 7-0-18. Totals 28-16-79 HARTFORD PUBLIC (4-11): James Majors 2-3-7, Elijah Perry 7-9-28, Tobias Murphy 1-0-3, Jaelon Owens 0-3-3, Eric Guy 3-0-9, Rashad Collins 1-3-5, Jeyko Santiago 1-0-2. Totals 15-18-57.

17 24 23 15 - 79 21 7 16 13 - 57 **EAST HARTFORD 59, NEWINGTON 57** 

EAST HARTFORD (9-9): Favour Okeke 1-0-2, Elijah Serrano 2-2-6, Zander Robin-son 9-3-23, Chris Lomax 4-1-10, David Pardo 1-1-3, Dom LaDuca 5-0-12, Justin Victorin 1-0-3, Totals 23-7-59, NEWINGTON (9-9): Nick Gagliardi 2-0-5, Gavin Grey 6-0-14, Trey Guest 7-5-19, Noah Tharaldson 1-0-2, Sean Hurley 4-0-10, Freddie Martinez 3-0-7. Totals 23-5-57.

14 16 10 19 - 59 18 21 15 3 - 57 EH NCCC

STAFFORD 61, EAST WINDSOR 45 EAST WINDSOR (3-14): Josh Maddox

0-1-1, Eric Wyse 2-1-6, Nicky Parakilas 1-2-4, Ryan Lee 7-2-18, Alex Giannuzzi 1-0-2, Juelz Torres 2-1-5, Justin Rodriguez 3-0-9. Totals 16-7-45. STAFFORD (12-6): Logan Briggs 1-2-4,

Evan McKay 1-0-2, Isaac Minaya 10-3-23, Mark McLaughlin 3-3-10, Zack Donovan 3-0-6, Dylan McLaughlin 1-0-2, Vernon Percy 2-2-8, Collin Gudeman 3-0-6. Totals

EW 10 11 11 13 - 45 16 14 10 21 - 61

Note: Minaya had a double-double with **CANTON 60, BOLTON 57** 

BOLTON (5-13): Mason Fox 0-1-1, Trevor Buchanan 9-5-27, Colby Marsh 5-1-11, Cal Bulley 3-2-10, Ryan Drzolek 2-2-6, Michael McBride III 1-0-2. Totals 20-11-57. CANTON (12-6): Khalil Thomas 4-0-8. Brandon Powell 5-5-15, Matthew Bene-

detti 3-0-6, Isaiah Reece 5-3-15, Connor Nadeau 3-0-7, Luke Maher 3-2-9. Totals 23-10-60.

14 8 11 24 - 57 14 10 18 18 - 60

**CROMWELL 53. VALLEY REGIONAL 44** CROMWELL (17-0): Gianluca Albert 5-6-18, Louis Friend 1-0-2, Victor Payne 6-2-16. JJ Feehan 5-0-11, Jake Salafia 2-0-4, Logan Mure 1-0-3, Luke Gagnon 1-0-3.

Totals 18-10-53. VALLEY REGIONAL (9-9): Di'Angelo Jean-Pierre 5-3-13, Andrew Yermenson 0-0-0, Sam Hutchinson 3-2-8, James Marsden 6-0-14, Brayden Shea 1-1-3. Totals 16-7-44.

12 15 16 10 - 53 VR 9 10 12 13 - 44

CRAL MLC 80. CIVIC LEADERSHIP 55

CIVIC LEADERSHIP (3-15): Kyon McCray 1-0-2, Noah Hicks 10-5-29, Jayden Gist

Mitchell 2-0-5, Javier Negron 0-2-2. Totals MLC (3-14): Alec Lorenzo 10-0-26, Jarell Deer 4-2-10, Zamar Gibson 2-0-4, Alex Grice 10-1-21, Jose Reyes 1-0-2, Ronald

5-2-12, Donovan Brown 2-0-5, Khemoni

Baapogmah 6-1-13, George McElroy 1-0-2, Kymani Rochester 1-0-2. Totals 34-4-80. 18 15 11 11 - 55 22 26 15 17 - 80

WEAVER 79, AFROSPACE 62

WEAVER (14-4): Steven Wilson 6-0-13, Richard Williams 1-0-3, Regis Benn 0-2-2, Damar Artis 7-1-16, Taige Williams-Bey 1-0-2, Jamir Hicks 4-1-11, Isaiah McPherson 3-0-8, Chris Wilson 7-4-18, John Paul Jones 2-0-4. Totals 32-8-79. AEROSPACE (7-10): Rayquanne Bogle 0-4-4, Alex Small 2-0-4, Kooper Ashmore 5-3-16, Justin Smith 4-0-8, Kevin Clarke 11-6-30. Totals 22-13-62.

w 16 22 18 23 - 79 18 10 13 21 - 62

Note: Artis had a double-double with 11 assists, 4 steals and C. Wilson had a double-double with 15 rebounds, 3 blocks.

**XAVIER 63, GUILFORD 49** XAVIER (11-7): John Carrozzella 1-0-2, Ethan Bessoni 1-0-2, Colby Ciampi 3-4-10, Vik Vakati 6-2-17, Anthony Parker 8-2-20, Aidan Driscoll 4-1-10, Mark Schoonmaker 1-0-2. Totals 24-9-63. GUILFORD (12-7): Cal Bucci 9-0-22, Theo Freeman 1-0-2, Justin Hess 3-0-8, Luke

St. Marie 5-1-14, Riley Swan 1-0-3. Totals 24 11 11 17 - 63 12 8 17 12 - 49

LYMAN HALL 51, CHESHIRE 38

CHESHIRE (5-12): Adrian Ali 2-0-6, EJ Quint 1-0-3, Jack Markarian 5-2-12, Tristan Washington 2-1-5, Jayden Reid 4-4-12. Totals 14-7-38. LYMAN HALL (4-12): Justin Hackett 11-3-26, Brady Campbell 0-5-5, Tyler Casey 3-0-6, Nazier Medina 5-1-12, Eli Dineen

6 13 7 12 - 38 9 9 12 21 - 51 LH

1-0-2. Totals 19-9-51.

WATERFORD 50, BACON ACADEMY 46 WATERFORD (13-5): Logan Peabody 3-6-13, Noah Gollsneider 1-1-3, Jordan Elci 3-0-7, Evan Piotrowski 1-3-5, Nate Hynes 2-1-5, Sean O'Connell 4-7-16, Juan Morez 0-1-1. Totals 14-19-50. BACON ACADEMY (11-8): Sam Blum-

berger 8-3-20, Nate Harasimowitz 1-0-2, Ryan Claffey 3-1-7, Luke Grimord 1-4-7, Elijah Black 3-2-9, Quinn Johnson 0-1-1. Totals 16-10-46.

16 10 13 11 - 50 7 11 7 21 - 46

GIRLS BASKETBALL PLATT 52, TOLLAND 40

TOLLAND (1-19): Sara Clokey 2-3-9, Maddie Kolb 0-2-2, Emma Urban 1-0-2, Sophia Rotunda 3-0-8, Mackenzie Wood 2-0-4, Kelly Lebel 5-4-15. Totals 13-9-40. PLATT (10-10): Vianna Alcantara 5-2-13, Kamani White 1-0-2, Zaria Calloway 0-2-2, Khystina Campbell 0-2-2, Antwanette

Tann 15-3-33, Totals 21-9-52, 4 7 10 19 - 40

SOMERS 63. EAST GRANBY 40 EAST GRANBY (5-13): Melina Betts 2-0-4, Morgan Egan 5-1-13, Sarah Springer 1-2-4, Ava Walsh 1-0-2, Ava Guyer 2-0-5, Sarah Phillips 1-0-2, Taylor Haves 1-0-2, Brooke DeJesus 2-0-4, Julia Walsh 2-0-4. Totals

SOMERS (15-5): Sydney Cassidy 5-0-10, Deidre Dalessio 6-0-14, Devon Dalessio 2-0-5, Shea Cassidy 2-0-5, Eliana Wood 6-1-15, Taylor Illuzzi 1-0-2, Grace Majowicz 1-0-2, Erin Donohue 2-0-4, Halle Watt 2-0-4, Natasha Sherwood 1-0-2. Totals

28-1-63. 9 10 13 8 - 40 20 17 17 9 - 63

Note: Dev. Dalessio had 12 assists and

Watt had 9 rebounds

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 39, MORGAN

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH (5-14): Chey enne LaTouche 0-2-2, Ella Comerford 1-0-2, Julia Favalora 4-4-12, Kaleigh Bodak 7-0-14, Ana Garcia 3-2-8. Totals 15-8-39. MORGAN (9-9): Caeley Ayer 3-1-7, Ava Johnson 4-4-14, Katie Martin 3-2-8, Sofie Passante 1-0-2, Victoria O'Neill 3-0-6, Ava Zirlis 0-1-1. Totals 14-8-37.

10 9 9 8 3 - 39 8 7 9 12 1 - 37

Note: Martin had 11 rebounds and O'Neill had 7 rebounds. OLD LYME 47, OLD SAYBROOK 22

OLD SAYBROOK (2-13): Breleigh Cooke 3-1-9, Cassie Johnson 2-1-6, Mackenna Cooke 1-2-4, Sanai Baker 0-1-1, Kylie Lake 1-0-2. Totals 7-5-22. OLD LYME (12-7): Ava Roth 3-0-7, Kate

Walsh 6-0-15, Melanie Warren 1-2-4, Kanon Oharu 0-1-1, Ali Kyle 2-0-4, Alexis Fenton 1-0-3, Megan Loflin 5-3-13. Totals 18-6-47.

2 4 6 10 - 22 13 11 12 11 - 47 OS OL

Note: Loflin had 9 rebounds, 3 steals and Kyle had 5 steals.

**GIRLS HOCKEY** Others **EAST CATHOLIC CO-OP 3, HAMDEN** 

 $0 \ 0 \ 0 \ - \ 0$  $1 \ 1 \ 1 - 3$ Goals: EC-Meghan Croyle (2), Lili Ficaro.

Saves: EC—Kelsey Kowal, 8 H—Marcia Colten, 19. Rec.: EC—9-4-4 H—5-14.

**WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS** BOYSBASKETBALL

HALL 48, AVON 44

BRISTOL EASTERN 58, ROCKY HILL 28 ROCKY HILL (1-17): Yazdan Aftab 5-0-10, Grant Fishberg 0-3-3, Shiv Ghutadaria 1-0-2, Jake Polites 1-2-4, Evan Sikorski 1-0-3, Luke Castanho 1-0-3. Totals 10-6-28. BRISTOL EASTERN (4-14): Jeremiah Tatum 3-0-6, Lukas Sward 3-1-7, Dante DePass 1-1-3, Ben D'Amato 5-0-15, Brayden Dauphinais 3-2-11, Nate Fries 2-5-10, Zaveyan Tate 1-0-2, Isiah Lawrence-By-num 1-0-2, Jordan Chisholm 0-2-2. Totals 19-11-58.

5 2 9 12 - 28 21 16 8 13 - 58 **CONARD 55, TOLLAND 34** 

SMSA 66, GRANBY 65

WINDHAM TECH 76, NORWICH TECH 71 NORWICH TECH (7-10): Cam Topkin 4-2-13, Josh Hanks 7-2-19, Bradley St. Louis 3-2-8, Nick Lazowack 1-0-2, RJ Savoie 1-0-2, Jay Johnson 5-0-11, Chase Davidson 6-2-15. Totals 26-8-71. WINDHAM TECH (15-3): Dezmen Gaston 2-2-7. Daniel Toce 0-2-2. Alex Johnson 1-0-2, Trey Lindsey 3-5-11, Brody Belanger 7-0-16, Dylan Desautels 2-0-4, Danny Meikle 2-0-4, Joey Johnson 13-4-30. Totals

30-13-76 NT

19 15 14 23 - 71

LEWIS MILLS (7-13): Jordan Anderson 2-2-8, Riley Mills 2-3-7, Cassie Martinotti 2-0-5, Lillian Martineau 4-0-8, Abby Jankoski 4-2-10. Totals 14-7-38. PLAINVILLE (1-19): Lilly Wazorko 1-1-3, Elyse Brown 1-0-3, Marissa Miller 1-4-7, Tamia Chapman 0-1-1, Sami Thompson

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 56, SOUTH WINDSOR 42 MANCHESTER 60, WETHERSFIELD 45

**BOLTON 36, EAST WINDSOR 26** BOLTON (15-5): Emma Diehl 6-2-15, Niya Islam 1-0-2, Isabel Kenney 2-0-4, Riley Graves 1-0-2, Julia Zimmerman 1-2-4, Makenna Graves 4-1-9. Totals 15-5-36. EAST WINDSOR (8-12): Bailey Winner 4-6-14, Sam Corrado 1-0-3, Alex Witzke 2-0-4. Katie Blume 2-1-5. Totals 9-7-26.

**CROMWELL 52, WESTBROOK 36** WESTBROOK (9-11): Adriana Stranieri 5-2-12, Leticia Pires 0-0-0, Sadie Susi 1-0-3, Jami Sacco 9-0-21, Alexandra Zanzalari 0-0-0. Totals 15-2-36.

VALLEY REGIONAL (16-3): Ava Cunning-ham 2-0-4, Abby Bradbury 8-0-20, Bitzy Klomp 2-2-7, Liz Allen 1-2-4, Olivia Cunningham 6-3-15, Siena Schaller 2-1-5, Lily Grow 6-1-5, Regan Grow 2-0-4. Totals

Johnson 3-2-9, Katie Martin 2-0-6, Victoria O'Neill 3-0-6, AJ Luke 22-0-4. Totals 11-3-28. VR

COGINCHAUG 52, OLD SAYBROOK 31

Mariela Cartegena 1-0-3. Totals 12-8-36.
PRINCE TECH (10-9): Shanay Thoms 5-3-16, Shavani Roach 3-0-8, Yenny Barry 1-0-2, Asia Harper 3-1-7, Grace Marie Hernandez 1-0-2. Totals 13-4-35.

GT; 16; 4; 2; 14; -; 36 PT; 13; 1; 7; 14; -; 35

н

12 rebounds.

**CHENEY TECH 69. PLATT TECH 32** 

**SOUTH WINDSOR 62. UNIVERSITY 47** 

GIRLS BASKETBALL CCC-South LEWIS MILLS 38, PLAINVILLE 27

4-3-11, Hailey Andersen 1-0-2. Totals

10 8 11 9 - 38 5 7 4 11 - 27

CCC-Inter
BRISTOL CENTRAL 64, HARTFORD PUBLIC

B; 6; 13; 9; 8; -; 36 EW; 4; 10; 4; 8; -; 26 Note: Diehl and M. Graves each had 7 rebounds and Kenney had 6 steals. ELLINGTON 59, EAST GRANBY 39 STAFFORD 37, SUFFIELD 33

CROMWELL (16-4): Grace Mikan 1-0-3, Cameryn Hickey 0-4-4, Brynn Kovacs 4-7-16, Jessica Grodzicki 5-0-10, Nevaeh Clark 2-2-6, Adela Cecunjanin 6-1-13. Totals 18-14-52. W; 9; 6; 10; 11; -; 36 C; 17; 13; 6; 16; -; 52 VALLEY REGIONAL 72, MORGAN 28

MORGAN (9-11): Caeley Ayer 1-1-5, Ava

23 16 19 14 - 72 9 4 4 11 - 28

**GOODWIN TECH 36, PRINCE TECH 35** GOODWIN TECH (14-5): Avalise Hernandez 3-4-11, Tomoya Bennett 1-1-3, Ericka Aponte 4-3-11, Megan Lukaszewski 3-0-8,

Note: Lukaszewski had 11 rebounds.

**MALONEY 69, HARDING 23** HARDING (2-15): Alexa Almanzar 3-0-6, Shaniellia Bryce 1-0-2, Nymbia Carter 0-0-0, Luisa Delgado 4-1-11, Kaniyah Brown 0-4-4. Totals 0-2-23. MALONEY (15-5): Evelyn Beltran 2-4-8, Amal Bahili 5-0-11, Gracey Massicotte 5-0-12, Jenna Quilty 1-0-2, Angie Guzman

1-0-2, Nadia Berrios-Lugo 3-0-6, Jaylice Rosario 9-10-28. Totals 26-14-69. 7 10 5 1 - 23 22 13 25 9 - 69 Note: Rosario had a double-double with



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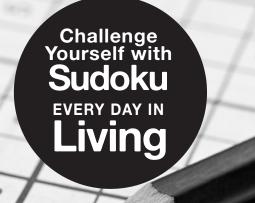
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# FLAVOR

LiVING



The surf and turf at Tao Asian Bistro is a 32-ounce tomahawk steak with lobster. Tao's pan-Asian menu juxtaposes Chinese, Japanese and Thai options. COURTESY OF MOHEGAN SUN

#### **RESTAURANT REVIEW**

# Dramatic fare

Opulence of Tao Asian Bistro at Mohegan Sun only outdone by the food

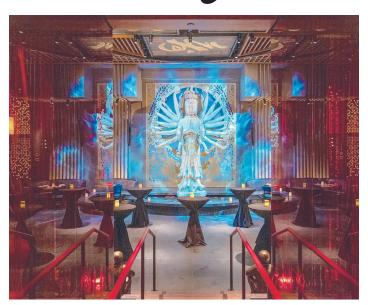
**By Rand Richards Cooper** Special To The Courant

y friend plunks down \$100 at a Mohegan Sun blackjack table, split on a pair of sevens, doubled on each, and cleaned up the whole shebang. We were rich and hungry. Time for Tao!

Tao Asian Bistro occupies the slot at Mohegan Sun formerly held by Bobby Flay's excellent Bar Américain. Sixth namesake of the original Tao, which debuted in Manhattan in 2000, the new outpost opened last spring with an amped-up, luxurious atmosphere showcasing what its owners, Tao Hospitality Group, call "vibe dining."

The eclectic, eccentric décor includes a series of hanging, oversized, vaguely scholarly looking tassels, as if left by a graduation party for giants. In the lounge, couples reclining in low-slung chaises enjoy such themed cocktails as the Zen Garden (tequila, Midori, ginger beer, lime) and Ruby Red Dragon (grapefruit vodka, yuzu, pomegranate). Blacks and reds prevail in the color scheme, and low lighting lends a sexy, vaguely sinister air.

A passageway is bordered by crimson-lit glass waterfall panels that front private dining rooms and leads to the main



The centerpiece of the main dining room at Tao Asian Bistro is a 16-foot-tall statue of the Buddhist goddess Kuan Yin.

JULIAN CASSADY PHOTOGRAPHY

dining area, a vast space with vaulting ceilings. The centerpiece is a 16-foot tall statue of Kuan Yin, the Buddhist goddess, spreading her many arms out over a live koi pond. The Tao management has called Mohegan Sun "the most intimate" of its restaurants. At 10,000 square feet, and seating 300 diners, it makes you wonder what the others must be like.

The menu features such high-roller entrees as the \$188 surf and turf (a 32-ounce tomahawk steak with lobster). But those seeking a less pricey table can find one. Tao's pan-Asian menu juxtaposes Chinese, Japanese and Thai options. The Thai side included some deftly executed starters, like skewers of flaky-tender Chil-

ean sea bass in a sweet and salty miso glaze. Chicken wing "lollipops" consisted of drumsticks presented in "frenched" miniature — the meat pushed back down the bone to create a nifty handle — with a coating of peanuts and two dipping sauces. Fresh, moist, and beautifully char-grilled, chicken satay was a big step up from your typical restaurant version, with its lurid turmeric yellow.

Another night we did Japanese, beginning with chicken gyoza — bulky, tasty dumplings, steamed, topped with a slice of California chili pepper and drizzled in a honey-sweetened roasted garlic sauce. A special roll combined lobster with avocado, wrapped in pink soy paper, coated in panko and given a dollop of chipo-



The satay of Chilean sea bass at Tao. TAO HOSPITALITY GROUP

tle. A massive ribeye steak came pre-sliced for convenience, the slices fanned out on an oval plate, topped in a black-pepper teriyaki glaze, strewn with shishito peppers, shiitake and enoki mushrooms, and an asparagus and red bell pepper julienne. Off the charts in all the indulgent categories, it's a dish to match Tao's own opulence.

Here and there a preparation fell short. Pad Thai was sweet and soupy. A yellowtail roll advertised as "crunchy and spicy" proved to be neither. The shrimp in another entrée were all but lost in a thick tempura-style cocoon of dough

and slathered in a goopy sweetsour sauce.

But most of what got dealt out at our table was very good – and we hit the jackpot when we decided to bet on the Chinese love affair with the pig. We enjoyed the spareribs, slow-roasted and given a salty-sweet honey-soy glaze. Even better were the gua bao pillowy-soft steamed white buns, folded around slices of unctuously fatty braised pork belly, coated in a sticky chilihoney-brown sugar glaze, then slathered in hoisin sauce and given the savory counterpoint

**Turn to Tao,** Page 2

## Star chef's best cold-weather cure-all is a simple tomato soup

By Kate Krader Bloomberg News

In the dark days of winter, the feel-better food you want to eat is a steaming bowl of soup.

Traditionally, chicken soup has been considered the de facto cure-all. But Alon Shaya believes that tomato soup, dotted with plump grains of rice, registers even higher on

the comfort scale. The acclaimed New Orleans-based chef addressed the issue in his 2018 cookbook, "Shaya, An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel: A Cookbook."

The book features a recipe for his tomato and rice soup. "People call chicken soup with rice 'the Jewish grandmother's prescription,' a cure for whatever ails you,"

he writes in the recipe's headnote. "This vegetarian version may be even more so; it just makes you feel good."

Shaya's tomato soup recipe comes courtesy of his grandmother, Matilda Gerassi. Growing up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, he would fake a high temperature so she would make it for him. "I would stick the thermometer in the radia-

tor and then run down and show it to her. I'd say: 'Look, I can't go to school, can you make me that soup?' "She also made chicken soup, "but this was the one I craved."

The vegan soup employs the standard ingredients you would expect: onions, garlic and tomatoes, which, at this time of the year, should be good-quality canned ones. (If you happen

to live in a zone with ripe, fresh ones, go for it.)

Where his soup becomes a work of genius is the inclusion of caramelized tomato paste, which Shaya calls his secret weapon. Spoonfuls of the paste are stirred around with the sautéed onions and olive oil to caramelize and magnify the sweet tomato pop.

He also throws a couple unconventional spices into

the pot: Syrian Aleppo chile flakes, which have a sharp, bright heat, and star anise. The tastes bounce around in your mouth. "I always want to keep the flavors rolling; a good way to do that is with spices," Shaya says. "You might not know exactly what you're tasting, you just know that it's interesting."

Turn to Soup, Page 2



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Buttermilk pound cake with hints of lemon and orange is the perfect way to celebrate citrus season. GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

# Will the sun to shine with this citrusy pound cake

**By Gretchen Mckay** Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

If there's one bright spot this time of year, it's that winter is the peak of the citrus season, and oranges, grapefruit and lemons are in ample supply.

With their bright, cheerful colors

and sweet-tart flavors, winter citrus offers a taste of sunshine that jazzes up just about any recipe while adding a daily dose of vita-

This moist and buttery pound cake is perfumed with lemon and orange and has an easy orange glaze for a sugary finish.

It's perfect with a cup of afternoon tea or topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream for a decadent dessert.

The original recipe divided the batter between two loaf pans, but I used a single 9-by-5-inch pan. Also, because I didn't have buttermilk on hand, I used this hack: Add 1 tablespoon of fresh lemon juice to 1 cup of milk to curdle it.

My family gobbled this tasty pound cake up in no time flat, but it also can be kept at room temperature tightly wrapped in plastic for up to three days, and it will store beautifully in the freezer for up to three months.

#### Glazed lemon-orange pound cake

Makes: 1 pound cake For the cake: 2 sticks unsalted butter, at

room temperature
2 cups granulated sugar
4 extra-large eggs at room
temperature
Zest from 3 lemons
Zest from 3 oranges
3 cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon kosher salt
¼ cup freshly squeezed

34 cup buttermilk at room temperature 1 teaspoon lemon extract

orange juice

cooking spray.

1 teaspoon lemon extract For the glaze: 1½ cups confectioners'

sugar
Juice and zest of 1 orange
Zest from 1 lemon
1. Preheat oven to 350
degrees. Grease a 9-by-5inch loaf pan with butter or

2. In the bowl of a stand

mixer, cream butter and 2 cups of granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 4 to 5 minutes. Beat in eggs and orange and lemon zest. 3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl. combine orange juice, buttermilk and lemon extract. Add flour and buttermilk mixtures alternately to the batter. Pour batter into the loaf pan, and lightly rap on the counter a few times to make sure it's settled and

comes out clean.

4. Take cake out of the oven and make the glaze. In small bowl, whisk together confectioners' sugar and orange juice until it reaches the desired consistency to spread and drip slightly. (Add more juice if it's too thick or more sugar if it's

smooth on top. Bake for 45 minutes, or until cake tester

too thin.)

5. When cake is almost cool, drizzle glaze on top and down sides, then sprinkle with orange and lemon zest.

— Adapted from wornslapout.com

#### Tao

from Page 1

of pickled vegetables. Our pork spree culminated with two big-bowl entrees of enticing quality. A Hong Kong dish offered a bed of egg noodles fried together with chicken, mixed veggies, and pork. And fried rice came loaded with a trifecta of pork belly, sausage, and barbecued roast pork, a large heaping of sliced scallions adding color and tang. A dollop of bright red sambal completed the orgy of salt, sweet, fat and hot. We finished off with a dessert of hot, supremely fresh donuts, accompanied by chocolate, vanilla, and caramel dipping sauces.

A restaurant like Tao is polarizing. Its towering opulence accents the spectacular, and the pulsing techno music that swirls below those high ceilings generates a quivering energy, as if any moment the place might transform into a dance club. Some people will resist all the hoopla, but others will love it. Diners who value the show as much as the food will worship with joy.

# The basics: 4 stars

Tao Asian Bistro: 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd., Uncasville 860-862-0888 and taogroup.com

**The bill:** Soups, salads,

appetizers, \$6 to \$18; noodle and rice dishes, \$18 to \$32; specialty sushi rolls, \$16 to \$26; entrees, \$30 to \$199; desserts, \$9 to \$18.

Covid accommodation:
All staff are masked in both front and back of house.
Extremely high ceilings facilitate air circulation.
Tables are swabbed with antibacterial solvent while you are still seated.

Hours: Sunday to Thursday, to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. to midnight. Reservations recommended.

Accessibility: Wheelchair access through front of restaurant. Free parking in casino parking garages.







## I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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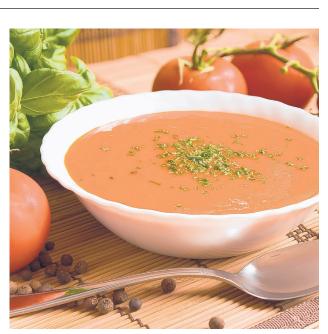
## Soup from Page 1

## Tomato soup with rice

Makes: 6 to 8 servings Two 28-ounce cans whole tomatoes, or 4 pounds very ripe tomatoes, cored ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving 1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced

- 1 clove garlic, thinly sliced 1 tablespoon Morton kosher salt
- 1 dried bay leaf 1 star anise pod
- 1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper 1 tablespoon sweet paprika 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 2 cups water

  ½ cup jasmine rice, or other
  long grain rice
- 1. Put the tomatoes in a blender or food processor and purée; work in batches, if necessary. (If using fresh tomatoes, cut out the cores and coarsely chop them first.)
- 2. Put the olive oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Once it's warm, add the onion, garlic and salt. Stir occasionally so the onion slices sweat and soften, but don't let them build any color. When the vegetables are translucent and soft, add the bay leaf, star anise,



Acclaimed chef Alon Shaya believes that tomato soup, dotted with plump grains of rice, falls higher on the comfort scale than chicken soup. **DREAMSTIME** 

Aleppo and sweet paprika. Give everything a good stir, and toast the spices for a minute or two until they're super-fragrant. Add the tomato paste and stir to combine, letting it toast and build flavor for another couple of minutes.

and build havor for another couple of minutes.

3. Add the puréed tomatoes and water, and turn the heat high. Bring everything up to a boil, skim off any foam (being careful not to strain out the spices), and decrease the heat to medium-low. Cook

for 10 minutes until it's just starting to thicken. Meanwhile, rinse the rice in a sieve until the water runs clear. (Be thorough here, or the starch can gum up the soup.) Once the soup has thickened a bit, add the rice to the pot and let it simmer away, stirring occasionally, until the rice is cooked — 20 to 30 minutes. Before you serve the soup, fish out the spices (or make it a game, and see who finds them in the bowls). Finish each bowl with a drizzle of olive oil.

# Wine business sees a problem: millennials

**By Eric Asimov** The New York Times

The American wine industry believes it has a problem: millennials.

More specifically, it's the fact that aging baby boomers — currently the prime market for wine — are nearing retirement age, the time of life when consumerism typically declines.

Millennials, the generation that began to come of age after the turn of the century, have given no indication that they are poised to step in. They buy much less wine than boomers, and the wine industry has not done enough to entice them to become regular consumers.

In his annual State of the U.S. Wine Industry report, presented last month, Rob McMillan, an executive vice president of Silicon Valley Bank in Santa Clara, California, and a longtime analyst of the American wine market, issued a forceful warning that a day of reckoning was coming.

'In prior reports, we noted that the falling interest in wine among younger consumers, coupled with the encroaching retirement and decreasing wine consumption of baby boomers, poses a primary threat to the business," McMillan said. "That issue has yet to be addressed or solved, and the negative consequences are increasingly evident."

Sales of American wine could plummet by 20% in the next decade, he said. It's not exactly clear what the industry can do to change this dynamic. As the father of two millennial sons, I am something of an expert on being unable to persuade millennials to do as I suggest. But McMillan, who has analyzed the wine industry for decades, has more than a few ideas for an effective strategy.

First, some background: In this discussion it may seem as if Generation X, the generation between the



As baby boomers retire and buy less wine, producers need new ways to tempt a White Claw generation back from other alcoholic drinks, according to a new report. CAT O'NEIL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

boomers and the millennials, has been overlooked.

This group is smaller than both the baby boomers, the huge population born roughly from 1946-1964, and the millennials, born from 1980-1995.

Because of the size difference, Generation X it has less buying power, although its wine-buving behavior does not seem that different from boomers'. Generation Z. born. approximately, after 1995, has too few years of legal drinking to really figure into the data.

McMillan quoted a Harris Poll of nearly 2,000 adults from November, which asked what beverage they would bring to share at a party. The choices were wine, beer, spirits, flavored malt beverages, hard seltzer or

Wine was the overwhelming choice among those 65 and older. The top choice was roughly split between wine and beer for those 35-64, with the other options trailing in the distance. But people ages 21-34 were almost evenly

split among five options, with cider trailing.

Wine simply is not preferred by younger people. McMillan pointed to the reopening of restaurants in 2021 after COVID-19 vaccines became available: during that period, sales of wine declined as sales of spirits

Millennials grew up in a world that has been far more encouraging of connoisseurship than when boomers were young. Social media has given everybody the opportunity to exercise their critical voices, for better or worse. Millennials are a more discerning generation, at a younger age, than baby boomers

But as McMillan points out, millennials have less disposable income than their parents and more economic fears. They are often burdened by student debt, have fewer middleclass job opportunities and cannot assume they will ever be able to afford real

That's a primary reason

that millennials have gravitated to beer and spirits rather than wine. The difference between a mass-market brew and a world-class beer is just a few dollars. A really good cocktail at a restaurant might cost the same as a glass of mediocre wine.

These are structural issues, but McMillan also noted the shortcomings of the wine industry in appealing to younger consumers. First, it has failed to recognize the changing demographics that millennials represent.

"While only 28% of the boomer population is nonwhite, 45% of the millennial population and almost half of Gen Z is nonwhite," he said.

Without question, the wine industry has been slow to adapt. After the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 and the racial reckoning that followed, the wine industry, or rather a small part of it, began to make some effort to diversify its appeal and its workforce. But the experiences of Black wine professionals and Black

consumers show how far the industry has to go to make it a more welcoming, inclusive place.

McMillan also asserted that millennial consumers are more concerned with social justice and with health and environmental issues, including climate change. Among his recommendations, he suggests that producers list their ingredients and offer nutritional data, like calories per serving, and that they be clear about their social values, their efforts to address environmental concerns and their strategies for lowering their carbon footprints.

"The strange reality is that it would be easy to start talking about wine in an evolved way and to reference the many things that are already a part of what we do to produce wine, and that would resonate with younger consumers," McMillan said. "Yet as an industry we are not doing it."

This is where his report seems problematical. The American wine industry is by no means united in

supporting social-justice causes or meaningfully diversifying its workforce. It has no industrywide plan for combating climate change, reducing chemical farming or cutting its carbon footprint. It has fought tooth and nail to avoid listing ingredients and nutritional data.

The report suggests that a marketing campaign might be the answer.

These sorts of slogans are likely to be bland and inoffensive, as they must represent a wide range of producers with wildly differing points of view. I don't know much about marketing, but it strikes me that actual change in the industry would go a lot further in appealing to young people than targeting them with a publicrelations campaign.

That means attacking complicated, thorny issues with solutions that are just as divisive in the wine industry as they are in the country as a whole.

If, as McMillan argues, younger consumers are truly concerned with social justice and environmental issues, what will an anodyne marketing campaign achieve?

In my little corner of the wine world, I see younger people drawn to natural wines and to traditional styles. These sorts of wines meet many of the concerns that McMillan expressed, and have demonstrated their appeal.

The winemakers do that by showing their concern with the environment by farming conscientiously, sticking with traditional ingredients and processes and, increasingly, I hope, by addressing social justice and equity issues that are as apparent in natural wine as anywhere else.

It's not just a question of perception, it's a matter of action, of demonstrating a commitment to change and to making the effort. Slogans will not paper over a failure to do that.



zucchini. KENDRA ELIZABETH SMITH/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

# Salting ensures crisps live up to their name

America's Test Kitchen

Vegetables and fruits such as carrots and zucchini (surprise – a zucchini is technically a fruit) are mostly made up of water. (A zucchini or carrot is about 95% water.) It can be a challenge to deal with all that water when cooking or baking. No one likes soggy zucchini bread!

One of salt's many superpowers is that it can pull water out of food. Plants are

made up of countless tiny cells. When you sprinkle salt on vegetables and fruits, some of the water inside the cells is pulled out toward the salt. This process is called osmosis. Squeezing the shredded zucchini and carrot in a towel gets out some of the water, but salting them and letting osmosis do its work lets you squeeze out double the water. So, for crisps that are crispy not soggy — use salt to draw out that extra

#### Cheesy zucchini-carrot crisps

Makes: 2 to 4 servings (12 crisps) 1 small zucchini (6 ounces) 1 small carrot, peeled ½ teaspoon salt

1/3 cup panko bread crumbs 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese (1 ounce) 1 large egg, cracked into bowl and lightly beaten with fork

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1. Adjust oven rack to the upper-middle position and heat to 425 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper and spray with vegetable oil spray.

2. Trim off the ends of the zucchini and carrot. Shred zucchini and carrot on the large holes of a box grater.

3. Set a fine-mesh strainer over a large bowl. Transfer shredded vegetables to a strainer and sprinkle with salt. Stir until combined.

water before cooking.

Let sit for 10 minutes to drain. 4. Place a clean dish towel on counter. When salted vegetables are ready, transfer to the center of the dish towel. Gather the ends of towel together, twist tightly and squeeze hard over the sink, draining as much liquid as possible. Discard any liquid from the large bowl and add vegetables to the bowl. **5. Add** panko, cheddar, egg and garlic

powder to bowl with the vegetables. Stir mixture until combined.

**6. Use** a 1-tablespoon measuring spoon to scoop and drop the vegetable mixture onto a baking sheet in 12 mounds (about 1 heaping tablespoon each). Use your hand to gently press each mound to flatten into a thin circle.

7. Bake crisps until edges are browned, 13 to 15 minutes. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and place on a cooling rack. Let crisps cool for 10 minutes. Serve.



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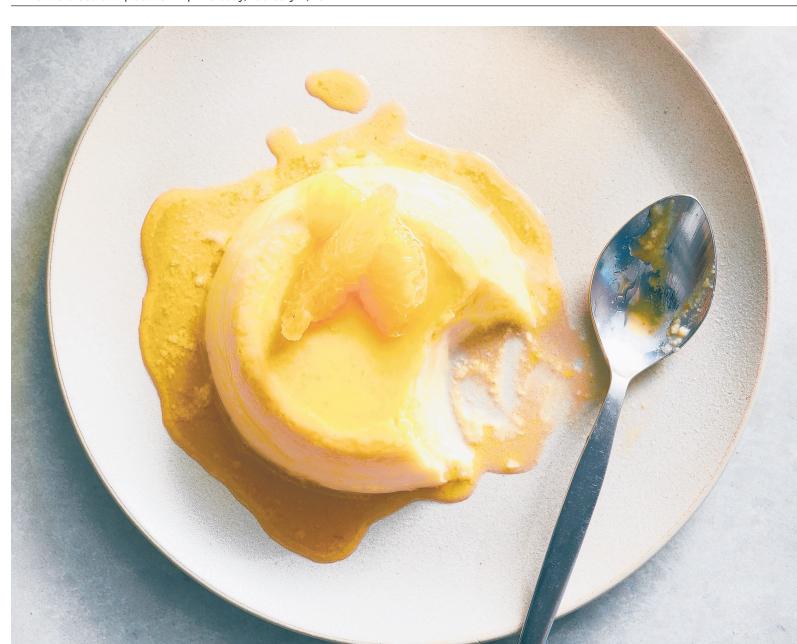
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A bright, tangerine-infused flan benefits greatly from advance preparation. **DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS** 

# Start with dessert

Tangerine flan, prepared in advance, ends a midwinter menu of brightly dressed chicories and rich pork chops

**By David Tanis** The New York Times

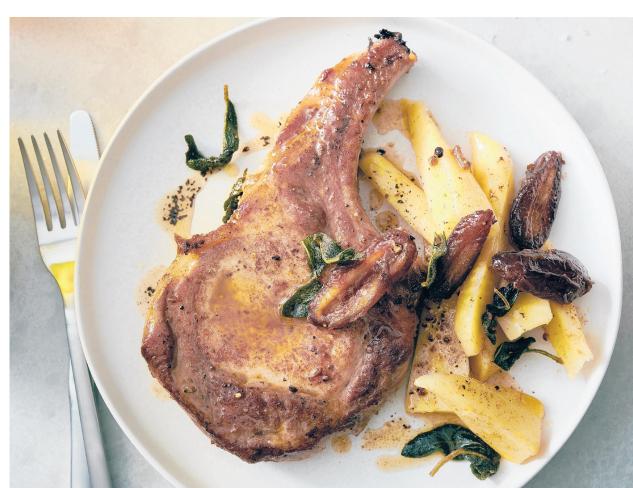
Dessert may cap a meal, but there's wisdom in putting it first and foremost, particularly when preparing a large dinner. In fact, cooking dessert before anything else is often a wise strategy. The job is then out of the way, so you can concentrate on the savory dishes. And if you can make the dessert a full day ahead, so much the better.

Enter flan, which is best made a day or two in advance of serving, its flavors improving with time. While flan is often flavored with orange, this version incorporates that jewel of winter, tangerine, and is somewhat brighter in flavor.

A flan can be made in individual ramekins or in a single large mold. Either way, it's a fiddly process. You need to make a caramel first to cover the bottom of the mold. For the best presentation — and flavor — be sure to let the caramel go quite dark, without burning. Once the eggy custard is prepared and poured into the mold, the whole affair is baked in a water bath and refrigerated.

Then it's on to other, more savory bits that employ the best of this cool season's produce: a stellar salad with curly endive, and pork chops with new-crop dates.

A salad is a fine way to begin a meal, no matter the time of year. Sturdy chicories are the salad greens of choice right now — not at all like tender lettuces, but wonderfully fresh tasting. For this menu, curly endive, also known as frisée, fits the bill nicely, alone or in



A brown-butter sauce with dates and crisp sage leaves tastes just as good with bites of pork as it does with parsnips.

combination with its colorful cousins, Belgian endive, Chioggia, Treviso or speckled Castelfranco radicchio.

All chicories have a slight, pleasant bitterness that stands up nicely to an assertive dressing — in this case, a mustardy vinaigrette. Chopped egg and Gruyère add interest (and a little protein). In fact, a large portion of this salad is great on its own, served as a light meal.

Pan-seared center-cut pork chops can be a nice splurge for a main — and what drew me to them was their ease of cooking. But to ensure they remain juicy and succulent, a simple brine comes in handy. Mix it up — it's just a watery solution of salt, sugar and aromatics — and submerge the chops for a short period

or overnight. Even a couple hours of brining will achieve tender and tasty results.

For easy effect, sizzle soft medjool dates with butter and sage leaves to spoon over the finished chops, which gives them a blast of sweet-salty flavor. (If you can't find dates, pitted prunes make a good substitute.) Parsnips work well as an accompaniment, but so would sweet potato or roasted squash. The date-and-brown-butter treatment tastes good with

them, too.

Many elements of this meal can be prepared the day before, so being organized is key. But in return for your foresight, you'll reap flavorful rewards, and your table-mates will applaud.



This supremely simple salad tastes pleasantly bitter, tangy and cheesy all at once.

#### Curly endive salad with mustard dressing, egg and Gruyère

Makes: 4 servings

Total time: 25 minutes 4 large eggs, at room temperature Ice water 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard 1 small garlic clove, grated or mashed to a paste ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil Salt and black pepper 4 large handfuls tender, pale curly endive (from the center of 2 medium heads), washed and dried About 2 ounces Gruyère

1. Bring a small pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add eggs (the water should cover them) and return to a boil. Adjust heat so that the water is at a brisk simmer. For a runny yolk, cook for 7 minutes; for a gooey center, cook for 8 minutes; for a slightly moist center, cook for 9 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare an ice bath.

2. Immediately drain eggs

and plunge into ice water to cool, When cool, crack and peel eggs. (Eggs can be cooked and peeled up to several hours in advance, and refrigerated.) Roughly chop eggs into haphazard slices. 3. Put vinegar, mustard and garlic in a small bowl. Whisk with a fork to dissolve. Slowly whisk in olive oil to make a slightly thick dressing. Season to taste with salt and pepper. 4. Put endive in a low. wide salad bowl and sprinkle very lightly with salt. Add dressing to taste and toss well. Transfer greens to individual plates. Top with chopped egg. With a vegetable peeler, shave thin slices of Gruyère over each

#### Pan-seared pork chops with sage, dates and parsnips

Makes: 4 servings Total time: 30 minutes, plus at least 2 hours of brining ¼ cup kosher salt (Diamond Crystal), plus more for boiling 2 tablespoons sugar 1 large thyme sprig 4 bone-in pork chops, about 34-inch thick (about 2 pounds) 2 pounds parsnips, peeled and cut into 3-inch sticks 2 tablespoons olive oil 4 tablespoons salted butter 12 large sage leaves 12 pitted mediool dates. halved Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1/2 lemon, plus more to taste
1. Brine the chops: Put salt
and sugar in a large bowl.
Whisk in 4 cups water to
dissolve. Add thyme sprig
and pork chops. Cover and
refrigerate for at least 2 hours
or up to overnight. When ready
to cook, remove chops from
brine and pat dry. Discard
brine.

2. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Put a large pot of well-salted water over high heat. When it boils, add parsnips and bring to a brisk simmer. Cook until parsnips are tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain parsnips and keep warm.

3. Meanwhile, set a large

skillet over medium-high heat and add olive oil. When oil is wavy, sear chops until nicely browned, about 3 minutes per side. (Work in batches if you don't have a large skillet.) 4. Transfer chops to a roasting pan or sheet pan in one layer. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until meat is 140 degrees when probed with an instant-read thermometer. Remove from oven and let rest while you make the sauce. 5. Wipe out the skillet and return to medium-high heat. Add butter and let it begin to brown. Add sage leaves and dates, and let sizzle for about a minute. Add pepper and lemon juice, and pull off heat. Taste, and add more pepper or lemon to taste.

**6. To serve,** place chops and a spoonful of parsnips on warm plates. Spoon butter mixture over chops and parsnips.

#### Tangerine flan

Makes: 6 servings

Total time: 2 hours, plus at least 4 hours'

#### refrigerating For the caramel:

½ cup sugar ½ cup tangerine juice (from 3 to 4 medium

#### tangerines) For the custard:

2 cups half-and-half ½ cup sugar

2 dried bay leaves

1 small rosemary sprig (optional)

½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

3 large eggs, at room temperature ½ cup tangerine juice (from 3 to 4 medium tangerines)

Tangerines segments, for garnish (optional)

1. Set a rack in the center of the oven, and heat oven to 350 degrees. Have 6 (4-ounce) ramekins ready. Make the caramel: Combine sugar and tangerine juice in a small skillet or saucepan. Set over medium heat, stirring to

dissolve sugar, and bring to a simmer.

2. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until mixture begins to thicken, about 5 minutes. Continue simmering until mixture begins to caramelize and brown, stirring or swirling the pan, 5 to 6 minutes more. Let the caramel go as dark as possible without burning, to a deep brown color, then carefully pour a bit in the bottom of each ramekin, dividing the hot caramel among them evenly. Set ramekins aside at

room temperature.

**3. Make the custard:** Put the half-and-half and sugar in a medium saucepan, and set over medium-high heat. Add bay leaves, rosemary (if using) and vanilla. Bring to just under a simmer, then turn off heat. Stir to dissolve sugar.

4. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs and tangerine juice. Whisk in the hot half-and-half mixture a little at a time.
5. Strain the custard through a fine-mesh sieve set over a medium bowl. Set ramekins

in a deep baking dish. Fill each ramekin with 1/2

cup of the strained mixture. **6. Place** baking dish on middle rack in the oven. Add hot tap water to baking dish so it comes halfway up the sides of the

ramekins. Cover dish tightly with foil and bake until custards set, 25 to 30 minutes. Start checking at 15 minutes. When done, custards should look opaque and just a little wiggly. Insert a paring knife into the center of the flan to test. The knife should come out clean. 7. Carefully remove ramekins from water bath and let cool to room temperature. Wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight. 8. To serve, run a small knife around the inside edge of each ramekin to loosen the flan. Invert a dessert plate over the ramekin, then flip plate while securing ramekin. Tap or shake ramekin, lift from plate and the flan will release. Spoon any remaining caramel around flan. Garnish with tangerine segments, if

desired.